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Japan

Kaifu Criticizes U.S. Congressmen on Trade

OW1202075790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Gifu, Feb. 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday accused U.S. Congressmen of "raising a sword" over trade and stressed the need to settle trade disputes between the two countries through deepening "confidence" in each other.

Kaifu, meeting reporters here on a stumping tour for the general election on February 18, criticized a call made in the U.S. Congress in bilateral structural negotiations, saying threats to take retaliatory action under the "Super 301" provision of the 1988 trade law were comparable to "raising a sword."

"Such a unilateral step as imposing trade sanctions would be unacceptable to us," Kaifu said.

Japan and the U.S. rescheduled the trade talks, called the Structural Impediments Initiative, until February 22-23, after the Lower House election on February 18. The talks were originally due to take place January 16-17.

Kaifu said Japan is now promoting "concrete steps" to give easier access to three markets that have been the subject of disputes—telecommunications satellites, lumber, and super computers.

Citing stable commodity prices as top economic policy priority, meanwhile, Kaifu said his cabinet continues efforts to rectify the price gap between Japan and foreign countries.

U.S. Trade Official Views Structural Talks

OW1002042190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT
10 Feb 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, Feb. 9 KYODO—A miscalculated delay by Japan in hosting a third round of structural talks in Tokyo with the United States has raised American expectations of a Tokyo meeting after Japan's February 18 general election, U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Linn Williams said Friday.

"If you're going to put off a meeting, then the next meeting becomes more important," he said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE. "It is only logical to realize that the February meeting must be a better one."

The two countries have rescheduled the third meeting of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) from January 16-17 to February 22-23 at Japan's request because of the election.

But he declined to comment specifically on Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's reported admission Friday of a tactical mistake for having requested the delay.

Williams, one of the cochairs of the American SII team, said the U.S. anticipates a "fair result" from the SII. "If there is too much disappointment with the result, then it becomes much harder to reach a result that seems appropriate at the end of the process," he explained.

Despite limited progress in the first two rounds of SII talks last September and November, he cautioned, "It's too early to be pessimistic but I haven't seen any reason to be very optimistic" about the dialogue's outcome. Touching on Japan's savings and investment imbalance, one of the six topics under SII discussion, Williams complained about the lowest level of public works spending in 40 years.

Calling for more "investment in the Japanese salaryman," he expressed hope that the Japanese Government would boost spending for roads, parks, and other quality-of-life projects.

A former resident of Japan, Williams said such spending would prevent possible overcapacity and help U.S. competition.

Furthermore, he said, "The Japanese salaryman would be able to consume more. Some of the consumption will be imports and some of the imports would be American."

"That decision (to boost public works spending) is entirely for the Japanese Government to decide for its own people," Williams added.

The results of Japan's satellite and supercomputer procurement policies and forest products' tariffs and standards are mixed, the trade envoy reported.

"The real issue of satellites is the fact that the Japanese Government is limiting the access of foreign companies to the satellite procurement market," Williams said. "The Japanese Government is requiring NTT (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone) and NHK (Nihon Hoso Kyokai) to buy satellites from Japanese companies instead of American companies."

He said the Japanese program to nurture an infant industry such as satellites is "inappropriate for a country like Japan."

In the area of supercomputers, he said, "There has been more reaching for common ground in the supercomputer area than either satellites or wood products."

But he was quick to warn that "there is a cooperative effort between the Japanese Government and Japanese companies to keep out American supercomputers." As for forest products, Williams said, "we do regret" the

fact that Japan's Tariff Council did not reduce tariffs. He questioned whether Japan is serious about taking such action.

"It's a matter of whether the Japanese Government wants to," he added.

Williams said auto parts is "a potential problem" in U.S.-Japan trade relations but declined to say whether the sector is a candidate for so-called "Super 301" trade sanctions under the 1988 Trade Law.

He said the auto parts sector is "important and sensitive" because it involves the "keiretsu" or interlocking relationship with automakers and, together with motor vehicles, accounts for a large percentage of the bilateral trade imbalance.

"I could say the same thing about electronics for exactly the same reasons," Williams added.

In the area of [word indistinct], he said, Japan is also engaging in "an effort to neutralize a competitive advantage to foreign software" for the benefit of domestic companies.

Takeshita, Abe Plan To Visit U.S. in Mar

OW1202134790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Maebashi, Feb. 12 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe plan to visit the United States in mid-March to ease tensions between the two nations over trade and national security issues, a senior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) politician said Monday.

Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister, said pending issues such as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks and reducing U.S. military bases in Japan need urgent attention.

"It is high time that powerful figures within the LDP tried to pave the way for expediting settlement of such bilateral issues," Kanemaru said.

Political sources said Takeshita and Abe will hold talks with top officials from the White House and Congress.

Kanemaru's remarks were apparently aimed at giving priority to improving the Japan-U.S. relationship after the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives.

Takeshita is planning to visit Washington as a special envoy after attending the inauguration of Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello set for March 15, the sources said.

Abe, who is regarded as the most probable successor to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, has already announced his intention to visit the United States next month.

Kanemaru, who is Takeshita's political mentor, was in Maebashi to speak at a campaign meeting for an LDP candidate running in the upcoming election.

Editorial Welcomes Return of Okinawa Bases

OW1102174390 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 10 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "The Planned Return of Bases Welcomed; Work Out 'Site Utilization' Plans Without Delay"]

[Text] With the 21st century just around the corner the world is shaking violently. International events of greatest concern until a few years ago were the EC's integration in 1992 and Hong Kong's reversion scheduled for 1997.

However, more violent shocks than the EC and Hong Kong have been felt: the waves of democratization in Eastern Europe sweeping like falling dominoes and billows of reform hitting the Soviet Union itself, leader of the East. One does not know how the world will reform in the days ahead.

Thus, the world is shaking violently. After four decades the structure of the U.S.-Soviet cold war, which took shape after the war, is being compelled to undergo drastic changes.

The swell is now surging even upon Okinawa.

Admiral Huntington Hardisty, commander of U.S. Forces Pacific, testifying before a U.S. House Armed Services Committee hearing on 7 February, disclosed that plans are under study for the consolidation and integration of bases. This, he said, includes U.S. military training areas in Okinawa and other base facilities to be put out of operation by this May and returned to Japan. In the beginning it was said that 19 facilities would be affected. However, according to subsequent surveys, it was found that, although a specific figure had not been made public, the facilities would be quite large in scale.

Apart from this, it has been announced that U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney is scheduled to visit Japan 20-24 February, during which time he also plans to stop over in Okinawa. It may be safe to assume that Admiral Hardisty's remarks and Secretary Cheney's visit to Japan have something to do with each other.

To put it in the Japanese way, Secretary Cheney may be coming to Japan, bringing a "present"—the return of the bases—with him.

Admiral Hardisty was quite specific in giving reasons for returning base facilities. He said, "Pursuant to its economic development Okinawa has been limited in the use of land and, thus, has intricate sensitivities toward the presence of U.S. forces and their use of bases." This is what the people of Okinawa Prefecture have been maintaining all along, and it is the reason they call for the removal of bases and oppose bases.

Therefore, it is believed that U.S. Forces Pacific came up with the latest plan to return facilities after examining the opinion of the Okinawan people, who oppose and call for the removal of bases.

Talk of returning or scaling down U.S. military bases has come to the fore many times thus far. Most recently, last 15 December, information attributed to a U.S. Forces Pacific source revealed plans to totally withdraw U.S. Marines from Okinawa and redeploy them to Hawaii around 1995.

At that time, the Japanese Foreign Ministry and Defense Agency denied the report as unthinkable under the present circumstances. Since Admiral Hardisty's latest remarks are more specific, it is believed that the plan itself cannot be denied.

Against the backdrop of the United States returning its Okinawa bases are such developments as the relaxation of military tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, the change in quality of East-West relations, and drastic cuts in U.S. military spending. Particularly, U.S.-Soviet detente and the change in East-West relations are dramatic, and it may be safe to say that the military bases in Okinawa, built during the U.S.-Soviet cold war era, are already antiquated.

Which facilities will be returned is a matter to be noted from now on. The Onna communication station and Awase golf course appear to be mentioned as proposed facilities. Which others will follow?

U.S. forces may be returning bases they do not need to put their Okinawa bases to most effective use. It is conceivable that, after doing so, they will further strengthen base functions, mainly at Kadena and Futenma. The northern training area and other facilities perhaps may be returned gradually.

The return of bases is welcomed. However, the way in which they are returned is open to question. While it is said that bases will be put out of use and returned by this May as part of plans to consolidate and integrate bases, nothing has been made known to the Japanese and local Okinawan people as to which facilities these are. That is the question.

May is just around the corner. Should bases be put out of use and returned, plans must be worked out at once for the use of the sites after their return. However, this is impossible when nothing is made known about which facilities will be returned.

We reiterate that their return is greatly welcomed. However, a unilateral return is unwelcome. If they are saying that they are returning bases "because Okinawa has been limited in the use of land pursuant to its economic development," they should return bases in a way that will not hamper Okinawa's economic development.

At the same time, we want to stress that it is high time for the Okinawan side to make a realistic and concrete study of how to utilize base sites after their return.

To those who have been living on base for more than 40 years after the war, bases look unchangeable and immovable. We bet that even those who cry for the removal of bases feel it is impossible that bases will be returned in the near future. Conversely speaking, bases have been as big a presence as that.

However, the world is shaking violently. It has come to a point where the Berlin Wall collapsed and the one-party dictatorship by the CPSU ended. It is natural for U.S. military bases in Okinawa, which shoulder an important section in the U.S.-Soviet cold war structure, to change. Although it may take time for the bases to be completely returned, the return of a considerable part of them may come unexpectedly soon.

What should we do in that event? It will be incoherent if, after calling for the return of bases, we say: Please wait a minute; please continue using them; we hope that the Self-Defense Forces will take them over.

The prefectural government, municipal authorities, and private organizations concerned should seriously think about how to utilize the base sites. Efforts should be made to avert a situation in which owners of military-used land find themselves in distress immediately after bases are returned.

The utilization of base sites is a question which determines what Okinawa will be like from now. It is a serious question which calls for beginning the formulation of concrete plans without a moment's delay.

DPRK Urged To Allow Nuclear Inspections

OW1002053890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 9 Feb 90

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Japan on Friday, prompted by reports North Korea may be building a nuclear weapons facility, urged Pyongyang to fulfill its international treaty obligations by allowing outside inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The call by a Foreign Ministry spokesman comes in the wake of concern by government officials over recurring reports of covert North Korean nuclear facilities in the northern part of the country.

Spokesman Taizo Watanabe, in a meeting with foreign correspondents, urged Pyongyang to conclude an agreement as soon as possible with the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) to allow for outside inspection of the reported facilities.

Watanabe said North Korea must agree to outside inspection as specified by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. North Korea became a signatory to that treaty in 1985.

Similar sentiment was reportedly expressed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during recent talks with Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow.

Watanabe's remarks came in response to French satellite photographs published by Japanese newspapers Friday that allegedly show the construction of new nuclear facilities near a city some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara told reporters that Japan is "very concerned" about the alleged expansion, but has been unable to confirm the reports. The photographs reportedly were taken last [word indistinct].

Watanabe said Japan is trying to verify reports that the facilities have been constructed "with a view to developing a nuclear weapon."

"North Korea is one of those countries and areas about which we have [word indistinct] from a viewpoint of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as well as facilities," Watanabe said.

Japan has traditionally considered instability on the Korean peninsula to be a security threat.

The nonproliferation treaty obliges signatories to conclude a separate safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency within 18 months.

While North Korea acceded to the treaty, subsequent talks with them failed to produce agreement on safeguard inspections, despite pressure from its ally in Moscow and from the United States.

The Soviet Union was reported by South Korean sources last Monday to be helping North Korea build a nuclear power plant with four reactors in the northern part of the country.

North Korea acknowledges possessing only one nuclear reactor for research purposes in North Pyongan Province. It became operational in February 1987.

One government source said Friday, however, that Pyongyang's unwillingness to agree to on-the-spot inspections "has raised suspicions among many countries about the intentions of the North Korean regime."

The London-based defense magazine, JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, reported last November that North Korea will likely achieve nuclear weapons capability within five years.

Washington officials have since warned that such capability would represent a serious threat in view of the country's "terrorist record."

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost told KYODO NEWS SERVICE last November that [words indistinct] were to make significant progress toward nuclear capability, "it is a major concern for everybody in this region."

U.S. and Japanese officials reviewed classified satellite photographs during a two-day working-level security

meeting last October and agreed to carefully monitor North Korea, according to Defense Agency sources.

Preparations for Diplomatic Contact With DPRK

OW1002121290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—North Korea has shown signs of change in its diplomatic stance to cope with developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, informed sources said Saturday. The sources said the signs include the strengthening of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and removal of restrictions on domestic travel. Seeing these changes, the Japanese Foreign Ministry is preparing to establish diplomatic contact with North Korea after the February 18 election of the lower house of the Diet.

The major pending issue between the two countries involves two Japanese seamen held in North Korea on alleged espionage charges.

The Foreign Affairs Committee is headed by former Foreign Minister Ho Tam, who is a Politburo member and secretary of the ruling Workers' Party. The committee was established last November to prepare for a visit by Japanese parliamentarians.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party plans to send a delegation headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru to North Korea this year to negotiate for the release of the two Japanese seamen.

The sources denied recent reports that the North Korean Government has postponed a decision to lift restrictions on domestic travel originally scheduled for January 15. They said residents of Pyongyang now are allowed to travel outside the capital without permit.

The Foreign Ministry plans to resume contact with North Korea in third countries, according to sources in the ministry.

Official Plans To Visit Hanoi 21 Feb

OW0702123190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official will visit Vietnam from February 21-27 and meet with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to discuss the Cambodian peace process and bilateral issues, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

The sources indicated that the visit by Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, will overlap the unprecedented visit to Cambodia by a subordinate, Masaharu Kono, director of the ministry's First Southeast Asia Division.

Kono will become the first Japanese official to make contact in Phnom Penh with officials of the Heng Samrin government when he visits the Cambodian capital on February 15-22.

Tanino, meanwhile, will be the highest-ranking Japanese official to visit Vietnam in 14 months since the then deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Takakazu Kuriyama, visited there in November 1988.

The sources also said the two Japanese officials may be conferring in Ho Chi Minh City on February 22.

The two visits are being viewed as part of Japan's new diplomatic initiative to assume a leading role in the Cambodian peace process, which has recently borne fruit with the endorsement by key players of an expanded United Nations role.

One source said Wednesday that Japan is ready to float new proposals with regard to "the formulation of a provisional administrative scheme prior to elections."

The proposals are also expected to address the role to be played by the Khmer Rouge, which is the strongest of the three resistance factions fighting the Phnom Penh government.

Sources said Tanino's visit to Hanoi is part of a regular biannual political dialogue between the two countries, in which the two sides will be discussing changes on the international stage, as well as regional issues such as Cambodia and normalization of Sino-Vietnamese ties.

They are also to discuss bilateral issues and to lay the groundwork for Thach's long-anticipated visit to Japan, expected to occur within the next few months.

Thach, who was originally scheduled to visit last fall, is likely to solicit Japanese trade and investment and to press for a resumption of Japanese economic assistance.

Aid other than relief assistance has been suspended since 1979, pending a comprehensive settlement to the Cambodian conflict.

But sources, queried on assistance to be rendered by the government in the dispatch of a private-level cultural mission to Vietnam in the next few months, said "cultural aid" may be taken as an exception to Japan's ban on economic assistance.

On reports that members of the Association of Southeast Asian nations (ASEAN) have been reassessing their policy of isolating Vietnam after its pullout from Cambodia, sources said Japan is carefully watching how they coordinate their positions at a proposed meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta in the third week of February.

Agricultural Aid Project for Iran Planned

*OW1002042490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1451 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. KYODO—Japan will dispatch an agricultural aid team to Iran next month to implement the first endeavor of its kind in a decade since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

The officials said the government mission will be finalizing implementation of a model-farming project involving the use of new machinery for rice cultivation along the fertile southern coastline of the Caspian Sea.

The livestock industry and other aspects of agriculture will be addressed in addition to the 100,000-hectare rice project, they said.

Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters the governmental technical cooperation mission will conclude an agreement for a follow-up team of agricultural experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to go to Iran in September or October.

Officials expressed optimism that the mission will achieve tangible results, "in contrast to another mission of government officials and private consultants which returned from Tehran last week having failed to reach agreement on a blueprint for construction of an airport.

In addition to dispatch of the airport project team, Japan agreed last October to explore energy resources and to raise the number of Iranians receiving technical training in Japan from 57 a year to 67.

Japan has pledged to help with the economic reconstruction of both Iran and Iraq after the peaceful settlement to their protracted bloody conflict.

But it previously tied a resumption of full-fledged assistance to the fate of a 600 billion yen joint petrochemical project.

Mitsui and Co., leader of a Japanese consortium involved in the venture, announced last Thursday it was scrapping the 16-year-old project in an agreement with Tehran that involves a 130 billion yen compensation payment to Iran.

"We are gratified that a settlement has taken place to the mutual satisfaction of both parties," Watanabe said.

"I really hope our relations with Iran would be further promoted after the settlement of this long-pending issue," he said.

Watanabe stressed that "a similar positive posture has been held and is being [word indistinct] vis-a-vis Iraq."

"[Word indistinct] are not taking sides with (any) one of those two countries in the conflict," he said.

Union Leader Expects LDP To Win Election*OW0902164290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1350 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Akira Yamagishi, leader of Japan's largest labor confederation, said Friday that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to capture a majority in the February 18 House of Representatives election.

The chairman of the eight-million-strong Japanese Private Sector Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), also said the LDP is likely to win 260 of the 512 seats in the powerful Lower House under present circumstances.

The chance of a shift in power from the LDP to the opposition camp in the powerful Lower House is 40 percent, he said.

Yamagishi made his prediction on the election results during a lecture to local business leaders in Inuyama, Aichi Prefecture.

Pointing to the importance of establishing a national coalition government led by four noncommunist opposition parties, Yamagishi said that Rengo will strive to form a new political force competent to replace the LDP.

Meanwhile, Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary general of the No. one opposition Japan Socialist Party announced his party's three-point policy to realize an affluent Japanese society during a stumping tour at Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture.

Yamaguchi proposed to narrow the gap in consumer prices between Japan and foreign countries and to streamline the country's complicated distribution system for foodstuffs.

The proposal also includes shorter working hours, implementation of a five-day workweek and a land reform plan.

Yamaguchi said the policy proposal will also help ease trade frictions between Japan and other countries, including the United States.

In Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida expressed willingness to take part in another round of TV debates among heads of major political parties.

Ishida, head of the second-largest opposition party, told reporters during a stumping tour that the proposed debate should be carried out independently by party leaders.

The third- and fourth-ranked opposition parties, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the Japan Communist Party (JCP), have proposed holding another round of debate following the one held on February 2.

Ishida expressed his belief that leaders of the two minor parties, the United Social Democratic Party (Shaminren)

and the Progressive Party, should be included in the debate. The two were excluded from the previous nationally televised debate.

In Osaka, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, also president of the LDP, expressed readiness to join in another round of debate.

In Fukuoka, JCP Chairman Fuwa criticized by the JSP and Komeito to introduce an indirect tax on specific items to replace the unpopular Consumption Tax.

Fuwa told a press conference that the plan to implement an indirect tax on certain items could pave the way for introduction of a large-scale indirect tax.

DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue told the press in Kobe that his party will aim to enact legislation designed to decrease the annual number of working hours to 1,800 after the election.

Nagasue, who was in Kobe to campaign on behalf of a DSP candidate running locally, said that the legislation is needed to shorten Japanese workers' long working hours.

The LDP announced the same day that it has decided to support 10 more candidates in the general election. The decision brings the total number of candidates running on the LDP tickets to 335.

Voter Interest Said High, Tax Leading Issue*OW1102124690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT
11 Feb 90*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO—Eight out of every 10 voters nationwide are keenly interested in the issues surrounding next week's House of Representatives election, a roundup of public opinion polls by the nation's local newspapers revealed Sunday.

The local surveys further showed that pocketbook issues—the 3 percent consumption tax and tax reforms—were tops in the minds of voters as the February 18 election approached.

The Recruit influence-peddling scandal and agricultural issues, which brought down the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in last summer's House of Councillors election, however, appear to have shrunk as urgent concerns in the voters' minds.

In a telephone survey conducted by the KAHOKU SHIMPO of Sendai, 84.5 and 82.2 percent of the voters in Miyagi Prefecture's two districts replied they had "an interest" in the forthcoming election, which compares with 66.3 percent and 67.8 percent, respectively, before the 1986 dual election.

The SAITAMA SHIMBUN, headquartered in Urawa, learned from its telephone survey that 82.0 percent of all respondents and 89.6 percent of male respondents were "interested" in the election and that 93.3 percent intended to cast ballots next Sunday.

The consumption tax is the leading issue for 46 percent of the Saitama voters while only 14 percent said it was the Recruit affair.

Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of the voters in Shizuoka Prefecture, when asked about the election's important issues, told the CHUNICHI SHIMBUN in Hamamatsu it was the consumption tax. Seventeen percent pointed to the Recruit scandal, down 12 percentage points from last July.

The NARA SHIMBUN found that 62.6 percent of respondents consider the consumption tax the overriding concern. When asked to cite other campaign issues, 11.9 percent said it was the choice between socio-political systems.

LDP candidates have attempted to cast their campaigns in terms of a choice between liberalism and socialism, associating themselves with the demands for free market economies and democracy sweeping Eastern Europe.

On Shikoku, the TOKUSHIMA SHIMBUN and KOCHI SHIMBUN have discovered voter "interest" running at 78.3 percent and 89 percent, respectively.

The NISHINIPPON SHIMBUN in Fukuoka reported that 76 percent of the respondents to its telephone survey said they would "carefully consider" or "consider in part" the consumption tax when casting their ballots.

Asked about candidates tainted by the Recruit scandal running for election, 76 percent either said they should not run while a public trial is under way or they should not run regardless of whether they have been indicted or not.

International Industrial Patent Conference Held
OW10102004890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—A 3-day international roundtable session on industrial patent rights ended Wednesday with participants calling for close cooperation in the sharing of information on patent systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Officials from more than 20 developed and developing countries, including Japan, the United States, and India, agreed to have Japan conduct a feasibility study on the collection of data on actual patent system conditions in each country.

"All participants said they were extremely satisfied with the talks and agreed to conduct detailed study on how to cooperate in the future to effectively use the patent system," said Fumitake Yoshida, head of the Japan Patent Office at a joint press conference after the meeting.

Details of the feasibility study have yet to be worked out, but Japan is expected to finish the study before the next round of patent talks, which are likely to be held sometime within Fiscal 1991.

The Japanese study will be assisted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Yoshida said.

The roundtable talks, the first of their kind, were part of a 5-day program sponsored by the Japanese Government. The participants in the talks will visit Japanese companies based in the Kansai area Thursday and Friday.

The talks centered on the effective use of the industrial patent system, the computerization of procedures involved in granting patent, and the harmonization of standards so as to enable developing nations to easily access information held by advanced nations.

During the talks, industrializing nations called on developed countries to grant preferential treatment under international rules on intellectual property rights currently being devised at the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Ignacio S. Sapalo, director of the Bureau of Patents, Trademarks, and Technology Transfer of the Philippines, said at the joint press conference, "Developing countries have a need requiring special preferential attention on patent systems—such as on medicine—to make it affordable to the poor people."

Gao Lulin, director general of the Chinese Patent Office, said international consideration should be given to the economic development of less developed nations.

Gao pointed out that the advanced nations are more interested in protection of their own patent rights than in the economic growth of less fortunate nations.

Pak Hong-sik, commissioner of the Industrial Property Office of South Korea's Ministry of Trade and Industry, said the Uruguay Round should not go into "too much detail" on patent rights or map out sweeping rules at the end of the round in December.

Pak said the scope of the talks under the round should be narrowed so as to make it easy for all participating nations to agree on a new framework for intellectual property rights.

Plan To Ease Takeover Bid Restrictions Approved
OW3101012190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—An advisory body on Tuesday approved a Finance Ministry plan to ease restrictions on "takeover bids" (TOB) through stock purchases and disclosure requirements for major transfers of a company's stock, ministry sources said.

The ministry intends to submit a bill revising the Securities and Exchange Law to a special Diet session,

expected after the February 18 general election, in hopes of implementing the new regulations during fiscal 1990, starting in April.

It explained the planned amendments at a related sub-committee meeting of the securities and Exchange Council on Tuesday.

The legal amendments are designed to answer critics in the United States and Western Europe who argue that Japan's TOB—or tender offer—system is overly restrictive and that Japan's Stock market lacks transparency due to the lack of a "disclosure" system for massive stock ownership.

Under the revised TOB system, any offer to buy five percent or more of a company's issued stock—instead of 10 percent or more as at present—would have to be reported to the ministry.

The present requirement for 10 days of advance notice on TOB's to the finance minister would be abolished. A newspaper announcement and report to the finance minister on the day it is published is all that would be required.

The stock buying period would be extended from the present maximum of 30 days to 60 days.

The sources said the amendments will bring Japan's regulations on TOB's into line with those in the U.S. and Western Europe.

Under the new "disclosure" system, the acquisition of five percent or more of a stock listed on an exchange or registered on the over-the-counter market would have to be reported to the finance minister, the Japanese securities dealers association and the company involved.

This rule would also apply to actual stock owners who have yet to take steps for formal stock transfer.

Firms and their subsidiaries, as well as married couples acquiring shares of the same company would also have to file such a report as "co-owners."

The "disclosure" rule would cover not only stocks but also "potential stocks" such as convertible bonds and bonds with separable warrants which entitle the holders to buy new shares, the sources said.

The source of funds used for the stock purchase would also have to be disclosed.

Even after the reports are submitted, any significant change in stock ownership, such as a change of one percent or more, would have to be reported.

Mongolia

MDA Calls for Political Leadership To Resign

*OW1202110290 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 12 Feb 90*

[Text] The informal organization, the Mongolian Democratic Association [MDA], held its fifth meeting in Ulaanbaatar on Sunday [11 February] since it officially announced its foundation two months ago in 1989. The participants in the meeting carried slogans demanding an end to anti-MDA propaganda in the press, cosmetic changes to perestroika. Other banners urged the establishment of social justice, solution of ecological problems, and guarantee of human rights.

One of the coordinating council members of the MDA informed the gathered that the bank account and the premises promised to the MDA leaders during the meeting with Mr. Lantuu, alternate Politburo member of the Party Central Committee, had not been fulfilled as yet, and even expressed doubts that the Party really wants to go together with the Democratic Association. As is known, during this dialogue held three weeks ago and initiated by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the leaders of the country and the MDA both voiced the strivings to seek way to cooperation.

The participants in the rally urged that the MDA be given the status of an official organization, fully cover in the official media the course and outcome of the MDA's Constituent Congress which is planned to be held in Ulaanbaatar next Sunday on February the 18th, and give it a right to have its own paper.

At this meeting there was again heard criticism against the present political leadership of the country and calls for the resignation. The speakers underlined that perestroika cannot be implemented without profound renewal of the society's political system.

Representatives of another informal organization, the Democratic Socialist Movement, read an open letter of the organization to the Mongolian leader, Jambyn Batmonh. It urges the creation in the first half of 1990 a new state government, provisional People's Hural through elections with the equal participation of all political forces with the object of setting up a new political system in the country.

According to the Democratic Socialist Movement, the provisional Hural, as a transitional formation, must disintegrate on its own after the discussion and approval of the drafts of the new Constitution and (?new) elections and after the holding of national elections.

A group of German Democratic Republic's specialists working in Mongolia attended the meeting. They carried the state flag of the GDR without the state emblem. But during the course of the rally, they left the meeting as silently as they had come without any proper reason.

Order at the meeting, which continued for almost three hours, was maintained by members of the MDA who had blue ribbons on their chests as identity marks.

Many foreign correspondents, who had come to Mongolia from Beijing, covered the MDA meeting in Ulaanbaatar on Sunday.

Minister Presents Views on Democratic Union

OW1102111390 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Public Security Minister of Mongolia Lieutenant General Jamsranjab in his interview with a MONGOL-PRESS AGENCY correspondent has aired his views about activity of the Mongolian Democratic Union.

Referring to the meeting held on January 22d by the Union in violation of the (?public) order of the city authorities, the minister said (?he is afraid) the Union has started (?to abuse human) liberties violating the standards of public order. Ministry officials have met with the Union representatives and have warned them of it, said the general.

Answering to the question whether the activity of the Mongolian Democratic Union should be viewed as antistate, the minister said that there are no juridical grounds to qualify the Union's criticism and address [as heard] to the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party as an antistate action. The Union criticized the Party, some members of its Central Committee and Politburo, but the Party is not the state although it is the ruling party, noted the minister.

Expressing the official position of the Public Security Ministry, Jamsranjab said that the appearance of the Mongolian Democratic Union is a natural outcome of socialist construction, and from the standpoint of pluralism of views, it must be supported. There is no sense then the activities of the Mongolian Democratic Union as an already real social force [as heard], but if its activities will lead to the violation of public order, disturbance or jeopardize the lives of citizens, then naturally actions will be taken, underlined the minister.

The general indicated that the ministry officials will not use weapons against the people. The ministry, the Mongolian Democratic Union, and the Party are part of the people. They must all look for ways for cooperation and none of them must be put at loggerheads against the other, said the minister of Public Security of Mongolia.

North Korea

Menetrey Remarks at Senate Committee Denounced

SK1102051390 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 0022 GMT 11 Feb 90

[NODONG SINMUN 11 February commentary: "Preposterous Sophistry of an Occupier"]

[Text] At a hearing before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on 9 February, Menetrey, commander of the U.S. Forces in South Korea, made truly absurd, unreasonable remarks when he stressed that the U.S. troops in South Korea should not be reduced.

He raved that the North and the South of Korea should reduce their armed forces in a balanced manner through dialogue beforehand, if the U.S. troops in South Korea are to be reduced. He then said that a reduction of U.S. troops will accelerate the arms race in the Asian region. Clearly, such remarks by Menetrey are a sophistry designed to make excuses for not reducing even part of the U.S. troops in South Korea.

As the whole world knows, we put forward a reasonable proposal several years ago for a drastic and phased reduction of the armed forces in the North and the South of Korea, and we proposed holding negotiations among us, the United States and South Korea—the parties concerned [kuwa kwanryontoenun tangsajadurin uriwa miguk namjosonsaiui hyopsang]. We are making sincere efforts to realize this.

We even took the step of unilaterally cutting 100,000 troops of our Armed Forces in order to open a breakthrough for disarmament in Korea. However, our just and fair disarmament proposal has not been realized up to now, due to the unjust position of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities had responded to our disarmament proposal and if this proposal had been realized, the balanced reduction of the military strength in the North and the South would already have been realized.

The ringleader who hindered disarmament in Korea and who obstructed the balanced reduction of the military strength in the North and the South is none other than the United States. The United States, which has deployed 40,000-odd U.S. troops and 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea, is the party responsible for the issue of relaxing tensions on the Korean peninsula, including disarmament, and it can by no means evade this responsibility.

Menetrey should have mentioned the responsibility of the United States which hindered the balanced reduction of the military strength in the North and the South.

However, he made such shameless and absurd remarks, brushing aside the crime and responsibility of the United States which blocked the path to disarmament, and he raved that the issue of disarmament in Korea is only related to the North and the South and that the United States has no part in it. This is an unreasonable and preposterous assertion.

His remarks that the reduction of U.S. troops will accelerate the arms race in the Asian region are also groundless. At a time when the withdrawal of foreign troops from the other's country has become a trend of

the time, the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea has emerged as an urgent demand not only for easing tension and peace in Korea but also for accelerating the overall course of disarmament and detente.

The practical reduction of the U.S. troops in South Korea will lower the level of the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula, will ease tension and will exert favorable influence on accelerating disarmament and detente in the Asian-Pacific region.

The theory that the arms race in the Asian region would be accelerated by the reduction of U.S. troops in South Korea is unreasonable and preposterous.

Today, proposals on the reduction of the U.S. troops in South Korea have been put forward in the United States. This makes the reactionary U.S. ruling circle, which seeks permanent occupation of South Korea, feel uneasy.

Menetrey's testimony revealed the intent of the U.S. ruling circle, which is attempting to totally eradicate the theory of the reduction of the U.S. troops by legalizing those troops' occupation of South Korea. This it shows through the remarks of its field commander.

The U.S. imperialists should discard such foolish maneuvers and immediately take steps to completely withdraw their aggressive troops from South Korea.

U.S. 8 Feb 'Aerial Espionage' Denounced

*SK1002152990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors brought "E-3" early warning plane into the sky over south Korea at around 09:00 on February 8 from their Okinawa base and let it make a flight for long hours and commit aerial espionage on the deep inland and strategic targets in vast areas of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources. Such aerial espionage was committed in succession for three days from 6th to 8th of February and its cases numbered 5 in February.

And the U.S. imperialists let a "U-2" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane make a shuttle flight from the east to the west along the Military Demarcation Line from around 19:00 of February 9 for an intensive aerial espionage on the depth and major targets in the coastal areas of our side. Such aerial espionage of the U.S. imperialists was committed every day entering February and numbered 10 cases.

They sent tactical stealth planes including "RC-12" and various types of reconnaissance planes of the Army, Air and Naval Forces into the sky above the Military Demarcation Line on over 6 occasions every day to commit aerial espionage on targets in the forward area and sea of our side, inciting war fever.

The aerial espionage of the U.S. imperialists on the northern half of Korea numbered 70 cases in ten days entering February.

The ceaseless aerial espionage fully reveals the unchanged nature of the U.S. imperialists as aggressors and warmaniacs.

U.S.-ROK Exercises 'Whipping Up War Fever'

*SK0902153190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on February 8 brought to their airforce base in South Korea formations of "AV-8B" and "A-6" assault planes based at Iwakuni, Japan, according to military sources.

They let these formations, jointly with formations of assault planes belonging to the airforce of their aggression forces stationed in South Korea, stage an aerial strike exercise simulating a surprise attack on major ground targets in the coastal and inland areas of the northern half of Korea, whipping up war fever.

They threw into this aerial war exercise even an "EA-6B" electronic jamming plane and an "E-3" early warning plane which they brought from their overseas aggression bases.

On the 7th and 8th, they brought to the South Korean operational zone from their aggression bases in the Pacific "C-12" transport plane and "C-141" large transport plane loaded with aggression troops and combat equipment to be hurled into the "Team Spirit 90" war game.

The South Korean puppets drove forces of special units and formations of transport planes into an air dropping exercise on February 8 for the purpose of increasing the actual fighting capacity "in case of emergency".

The frantic military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to invade the North, which are getting ever more unscrupulous, well show that they are bringing the dark clouds of a new war of aggression to the Korean peninsula.

NODONG SINMUN on U.S. Aerial Exercises

*SK1202050890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT
12 Feb 90*

[Text] Pyongyang February 12 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought formations of "AV-8B" and "A-6" assault planes and of "F-16" fighter-bombers to South Korea from their bases overseas and staged aerial war exercises almost every day this year with formations of warplanes of the U.S. airforce stationed in South Korea. These war exercises staged in combination with aerial espionage by various types of reconnaissance planes are all aimed at dealing a preemptive strike at our Republic by surprise, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists had never staged aerial war exercises so hysterically as this year on the eve of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises annually staged by them from more than 10 years ago, the news analyst says: This brings into a bolder relief the provocative and criminal nature of the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises.

The U.S. imperialists intend to take the initiative by making a preemptive strike with their airforce and create an environment favorable for a total war in case the "Team Spirit" is converted into a real war by a foolish man. Herein lies the chief aim of their frantic aerial exercises. Their aerial exercises also furnish proof that they scheme to light the train of war on the Korean peninsula and expand it to broad regions.

It is clear to everybody that they would use the planes whose flying range and operational radius go far beyond the Korean peninsula not merely to attack our Republic but to realize world supremacy. The U.S. imperialists must stop all the war exercises and pull their aggression forces including nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

No Tae-u Group's 'Bellicose Outbursts' Assailed

*SK1002082890 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 0021 GMT 10 Feb 90*

[NODONG SINMUN 10 February commentary: "Powder-Reeking Bellicose Outbursts"]

[Text] In discussing this year's goals of administrative affairs concerning national defense at the puppet Ministry of National Defense, the No Tae-u ring incited war fevers. On this occasion, traitor No Tae-u babbled that the puppet Army must be reinforced in the spirit of founding a second army. Minister of National Defense Yi Sang-hun stressed the need to acquire state-of-the-art equipment superior to that of the enemy, to assume an all-out security posture by the civilians, government, and the military, and to build military strength in order to establish a combat posture. This shows that the No Tae-u group this year intends to accelerate arms buildup and war commotions, taking the fellow countrymen as the enemy, and to drive the population to confrontation against us.

The No Tae-u ring is unchangingly pursuing North-South confrontation and war even today when alleviation of tension and disarmament have become the trend of the times and when the peaceful reunification of the country has become an unstoppable aspiration of the nation. This is an anachronistic act and an antinational criminal act that cannot be forgiven.

While spreading rumors about military threats from the North, the No Tae-u ring contends that war preparations are necessary because of them. This is a shameless false propaganda by warmongers. As is known, this year, we advanced the new epochal national reunification proposal that a wall between the North and South be removed and that the North and South realize free visits and completely open up to each other, and have made efforts to realize this proposal.

Public opinion at home and abroad extends positive and full support to our sincere proposal. It is clear to anyone that our proposal for peaceful reunification cannot pose a threat to South Korea.

Military threats on the Korean peninsula come to the North from the South. It is the South Korean puppets who, far from pulling down the iron-reinforced concrete wall, claim that there is no concrete wall and who are staging the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise, a nuclear offensive exercise for a northward aggression, together with the U.S. imperialist aggressors. Moreover, what we cannot overlook is the puppets' so-called independent national defense, which they babbled about under the pretext of the so-called withdrawal of the U.S. forces, which is not a withdrawal at all in reality. As disclosed, even though the U.S. imperialists said that they would abolish some bases in South Korea and reduce their troops, this is a trick. The No Tae-u ring itself said that because the combat equipment of the bases to be abolished will be moved to other U.S. bases or handed over to the South's control and because troops to be reduced are support personnel, there will be no problem.

Under the pretext of the nominal reduction of the U.S. forces, the No Tae-u ring babbles about independent national defense and says that it will reinforce the armed forces in the spirit of founding a second army. This shows its real intention to accelerate war preparations, and it is extremely dangerous.

All the facts show that if the No Tae-u ring, the traitor to the nation, is left alone, the alleviation of tension and peaceful reunification cannot be achieved, and our nation cannot but fall victim to a nuclear war of foreign aggression forces. Our nation in the North and South will never pardon the group of traitors to the nation who are racing headlong toward a fratricidal war.

Kim Il-song Supports Iranian People's Struggle

*SK1002112090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed support to the Iranian people's struggle in his message of greetings today to Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

President Kim Il-song declared that the Korean people actively support the Iranian people in their struggle to maintain independence, convert the truce into a durable peace and speed up postwar rehabilitation and construction today.

Since the victory of revolution, he said, the Iranian people have courageously repulsed the acts of aggression and interference of the imperialists and made great successes in the struggle to safeguard the gains of the Islamic Revolution and to realize an independent development of the country.

He expressed the belief that the excellent friendly and cooperative relations existing between the two countries would further expand and develop in future.

Iranian Envoy Hosts Anniversary Banquet

SK1102084790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)—Hasan Dabir, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Korea, hosted a banquet at the Ongnyu restaurant yesterday evening on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

Present at the banquet on invitation were Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, Kim Tal-hyon, Choe Mun-son, Kim Kwang-chin, Chong Song-nam, Kim Chang-ho, Choe Ki-yong, Choe Su-hon and other officials concerned and diplomatic envoys of various countries in Pyongyang.

Speaking at the banquet ambassador Hasan Dabir said:

The Islamic Republic of Iran is promoting friendly relations and international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and opposes any form of interference in the internal affairs of other countries and aggression on them.

Visits of high-ranking officials are frequent between the two countries, he said, and stressed:

The Pyongyang visit of his excellency Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, in May 1989 marked a turning point in the development of the relations between Korea and Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran highly appreciates the struggle of the Korean people for great economic, technological and cultural development and better living standards under the wise leadership of respected his Excellency Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Referring to the question of Korea's reunification, he denounced the hostile policy of the United States toward Korea. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses support to the policy of independent and peaceful reunification and proposals to reunify the country on the basis of national unity which were advanced by His Excellency Kim Il-song, he said.

Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the External Economy Commission, spoke next. He pointed out that since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran 11 years ago, the resourceful and courageous Iranian people have consolidated the victory of the Islamic Revolution and firmly defended the independence and sovereignty of the country, pushing aside all manner of interference of the imperialists, with strong will and indomitable spirit.

Referring to the great achievements made by the Iranian people in the endeavours to step up post-war rehabilitation and build an independent national economy, he

said: The Korean people rejoice over the success of the fraternal Iranian people as over their own and wish them a fresh victory in their struggle to build an independent and prosperous Iran.

The historic meeting between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Islamic leader of Iran His Excellency Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Pyongyang in May last year was an important event which brought a new milestone in the history of the development of relations between the two countries, he said, and stressed: The Korean people will always advance hand in hand with the Iranian people on the road of the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for chajusong in keeping with the spirit agreed upon between the leaders of the two countries.

Castro Supports Kim Il-song Reunification Plan

SK1002050090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, supported the DPRK's new proposal for national reunification when he met a delegation of the Ministry of Atomic Energy Industry of the DPRK led by its Minister Choe Hak-kun on February 7.

He expressed full support to the proposal put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address for national reunification and wished the Korean people success in the endeavours for socialist construction and national reunification.

He laid stress on strengthening solidarity between Cuba and Korea, among those countries building socialism.

Press Denounces U.S. 'Anti-Cuba Campaign'

SK1202105390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today condemns the U.S. imperialists for escalating their anti-Cuban campaign. Recalling that a U.S. warship committed an armed attack on the Cuban-flagged peaceful trading vessel "El Herman" which was sailing along an international sea route on January 31, the news analyst says this is a wanton violation of the international law and the sovereignty of a sovereign state.

The current attack shows to what extent the anti-Cuban campaign of the U.S. imperialists has gone. The vicious anti-Cuban action of the U.S. imperialists was prompted by their criminal attempt to stifle socialist Cuba at any cost. The banner of socialism has been fluttering for more than 30 years in Cuba, "island of freedom" in the Caribbean sea.

The Cuban people have class principle, unshakable will and revolutionary faith in their resolute fight against the

aggression moves of the U.S. imperialists. Their never-ceasing anti-Cuban campaign has met with a despicable setback at every step by the struggle of the Cuban people. With no amount of tricks can the U.S. imperialists frighten the Cuban people rallied close around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro and break their firm faith and will.

The heroic Cuban people will resolutely smash the anti-Cuban campaign of the U.S. imperialists, uphold the banner of revolution and defend the honor and dignity of socialist Cuba. The anti-Cuban campaign of the U.S. imperialists is fated to meet a disgraceful fiasco.

UN Development Assistance Program Completed

SK0902060390 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0545 GMT 9 Feb 90*

[Text] *Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)*—An object for strengthening the Academy of Agricultural Science under a UNDP [United Nations Development Program]-DPRK assistance program was completed.

With the completion of this object it has been made possible to select and dry crop seeds and ensure the physical purity of seeds safely for a long period, to give a correct analysis of the physical and physiological characteristic features of seed breeding materials with modern experimental facilities and, at the same time, save workforce.

Its inaugural ceremony took place on February 8.

It was attended by Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the External Economy Commission, Yi Yong-kyun, president of the Academy of Agricultural Science, other officials concerned and researchers of the academy.

Henning Karcher, resident representative of UNDP, and members of his office were present on the occasion.

*** 3 Revolutions Red Flag Movement Stressed**

902C0092A *Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 22 Nov 89 p 2*

[Article by Chang Chae-yong: "The Movement To Win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions Is a Powerful Driving Force in the Execution of Three Revolutions—Ideological, Technological, and Cultural"]

[Text] Executing three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural by waging mass movements is the firm policy consistently adhered to by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In numerous documents including "Let Us Wage Still More Vigorously the Movement To Win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions," the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated a powerful guideline for accelerating the three revolutions by vigorously waging mass movements such as the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Party Central Committee, pointed out as follows:

"The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is a nationwide mass movement designed to accelerate socialist and communist construction by vigorously waging three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural to suit the demand for the chucheization of the whole society."

To execute the three revolutions by means of waging mass movements is an important factor in insuring success in socialist, communist construction.

Essentially, three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural are a struggle to realize the independent stand and attitude of the masses of working people. Accordingly, the masses of working people should naturally be the leading force of the revolution, and this must be accomplished by means of setting their inexhaustible energies and wisdom in motion without reserve. The three revolutions, which are unprecedented in their scale and depth, demand more than any preceding revolutionary movements that the energies and wisdom of the masses be brought into play to the fullest possible extent. A powerful means by which a working-class party sets the energies of the masses in motion in leading socialist construction is to vigorously wage mass movements.

As elucidated by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, a mass movement is a creative means for bringing the inexhaustible energies of the masses into play to the fullest possible extent, a revolutionary means for accelerating socialist, communist movement through mass struggle and collective innovations.

Since the day of its inception, our party has initiated and actively pushed forward various forms of mass movement to suit the demands of the revolution, the revolutionary aspiration of the masses, and the degree of their preparedness. All victories and successes scored in socialist construction in our country cannot be dissociated from the power of mass movements.

The various mass movements—such as the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions and the movement to learn from the examples of unsung heroes, the two movements which are accelerating and developing under the leadership of our party—are demonstrating their vitality more and more powerfully with each passing day as the driving force for waging the three revolutions and pushing socialist construction.

The vitality of mass movements as the driving force for three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—is evident above all in the fact that all members of the society are growing reliably as chuche-oriented communist revolutionaries infinitely loyal to the party and the leader.

Man is the master of all things and decides all things. How to prepare people is a basic issue on which the success of the revolution and construction depends. Nothing is impossible and no fortress is impregnable if only people are well prepared.

The ideological revolution for indoctrinating and remolding people is the primary process of revolution, and whether all tasks designed to accomplish the three revolutions can be successfully carried out or not depends wholly on how to prepare all members of the society.

To turn each and every member of the society into a chuche-oriented communist revolutionary infinitely loyal to the party and the leader is the foremost central task. Essentially, the process of executing the ideological revolution is the process of human development; and the level of development in technology and culture is, after all, determined by the level of human development. Only when people as the masters in direct charge of the three revolutions are prepared as chuche-oriented communist-type men developed all-around, is it possible to develop technology to suit the demands of chuche and also bring culture into efflorescence in accordance with the demands of working class. It follows that to bring up people as communist revolutionaries is a more important and immediate task than any other revolutionary task.

Mass movements, such as the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions and the movement to learn from the examples of unsung heroes, are inculcating in the people the conviction and awareness that to be infinitely loyal to the leader, the center for the life of the sociopolitical collective, is the most valuable and loftiest of all lives, the first and foremost life, and are raising them as true revolutionaries.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions is a mass movement which is being waged with the foremost task of preparing all members of society to become fervent chuche-oriented communist revolutionaries infinitely loyal to the party and the leader. Through the vigorous struggle to meet the lofty demands of this movement, the goal of bringing up our party members and workers as genuine chuche-oriented communist revolutionaries is being successfully fulfilled.

Through indoctrination by positive example, mass movements, such as the one to learn from the examples of unsung heroes, are actively inspiring people to display their loyalty to the party and leader in their practical activities. The loyalty to the party and the leader demonstrated by unsung heroes gives a deep impression to the people and serves as living examples for them. Our party members and workers are ideologically educating and steeling themselves using as the mirror the lofty spiritual world of unsung heroes who silently have given their all for the sake of the party and the leader regardless of whether anybody watched them or not.

In the flames of the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions and the movement to learn from the examples of unsung heroes, our party members and workers are doggedly marching forward along the road indicated by the party and the leader, with a chuche-based faith which never wavers under any storm.

To fulfill the chuche revolutionary cause to the end by protecting and defending the chuche ideology resolutely and by accelerating the revolution and construction in our own way is an unshakable will of our people. Noble indeed are the ideological and mental features of our party members and workers who faithfully follow party leadership, with an absolute faith in our party and in its guiding thought!

Under the communist slogan "one for all, all for one," our party members and workers are diligently working and struggling for the good of the society and collective, for the country and people. Through mass movements, a radical change has been brought about in the ideological and mental lives of party members and workers and in their work style and work habits, and the leading force of our revolution has been strengthened—and this is a matchlessly precious achievement.

The vitality of the mass movements which deepen and develop under party leadership lies in that they make it possible to successfully execute the technological and cultural revolutions through collective innovation.

Successful execution of the technological and cultural revolutions is a rewarding task to bring up all members of society as communist-type human beings developed all-around, possessing a strong physical strength and a high technological and cultural standard, to build a solid material and technological foundation commensurable with communist society, and thus to gratify the independent desires and demands of the masses of working people in the material aspect of life. This can be achieved successfully when technology and culture are developed in accordance with the demands of chuche.

To remold technology and culture in accordance with the demands of chuche is the central task of the three revolutions. The task to remold technology and culture in accordance with the demands of chuche can be successfully accomplished only through the revolutionary fervor and creative wisdom of the masses. It is impossible to accomplish the task of remolding technology and culture in accordance with the demands of chuche by individual energy and wisdom alone, apart from the power of comradely cooperation and unity among workers welded into a sociopolitical organism, namely, the power of collectivism.

The task to remold technology and culture in accordance with the demands of chuche is a very formidable one in scale and depth. It is inconceivable that the immense revolutionary task of remaking nature and society in all aspects can be accomplished by relying on individual energy and wisdom instead of the collective energies and wisdom of the masses. The task to remold technology

and culture in accordance with the demands of chuche can be successfully accomplished only when it is undertaken with reliance on the inexhaustible collective energies and wisdom of the masses, namely, only by means of launching a mass innovation movement.

Mass movements carried out under the leadership of our party are becoming the most effective method for inspiring the masses to collective innovation.

A mass movement is literally a collective innovation movement. The characteristics and powerful strength of a mass movement lie in that it greatly heightens the spirit of the masses and boosts their unity and cooperation and thus inspires them to collective innovation. In the course of a vigorous mass movement, the flames of collective innovation rise furiously. People contribute their skills and talents to the struggle for accomplishing the technological and cultural revolutions by helping and leading one another in the course of mass movements. For this reason, the creative strength and collective wisdom brought into play through mass movements are so powerful that they are beyond comparison with individual energy and wisdom. That is why mass movements enable not only a few skilled talented people but also ordinary workers and plain producers to become the creators of new technology and culture and the achievers of heroic exploits.

Mass movements such as the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions make it possible to prepare all members of the collective solidly as the standard-bearers of the technological and cultural revolutions, the masters of innovation and invention, and human beings having a high technological and cultural standard.

The mass technological innovation movement is vigorously accelerating, a new transition is taking place in the fields of science and technology and of education and culture, and collective innovations are being achieved amid the rising flames of the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions—a mass movement at a higher stage for remolding technology and culture. Under the slogans “ideology, technology, and culture—all in accordance with the demands of chuche” and “let one and all learn from the examples of unsung heroes,” the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the national economy is progressing and the intellectualization of the whole society is being pushed forth to a higher stage. In the two rounds of 200-day campaigns carried out before and after the 40th founding anniversary of the Republic, prodigious victories were won and large-scale construction projects, such as the construction of Kwangbok Boulevard and the first-stage construction project of Suncheon Vinalon Complex, were carried out, miraculously erecting everywhere in our country monumental structures that add luster to the age of the Workers Party. This would have been inconceivable but for the great power of the mass movements waged by our party.

The history of the struggle of our people to accelerate the revolution and construction under the banner of three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—convincingly attests to the power and vitality of the mass movements initiated and led by our party.

The all-out nation building thought mobilization movement, the increase production emulation drive, and the movement to eliminate illiteracy, which were vigorously waged in the post-liberation anti-imperialist, antifeudalist revolution, with the liquidation of colonial and feudal institutions of exploitation as its basic objective, vigorously bolstered the struggle for building a new fatherland, while opening the beginning of three revolutions in our country.

The Chollima Movement and the Chollima Work Team Movement, which brilliantly adorned the history of socialist construction in our country with miracles and events which amazed the whole world made all our people grow up as the chollima riders and the heroes of the time, enabling them to accelerate the march-of-socialism movement at an unprecedentedly fast pace. As a result, these movements greatly contributed to thrusting forward the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—which arose as a basic revolutionary task following the victory of the socialist system. In the period in which our people dashed forward with the spirit of the speed battle joined to the Chollima Movement, the fire of mass movement rose more formidably as the mass movements further intensified and developed in width and depth.

The movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions, the movement which our party initiated in the historic period in which the chucheization of the whole society arose at the forefront, has been waged vigorously with the accomplishment of the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions as its central task and with the fulfillment of the cause of the chucheization of the whole society as its lofty goal, successfully thrusting forward the formidable revolutionary task to remold man and remake nature and society. While being pushed forward vigorously in close conjunction with various mass movements—such as the movement to create the “speed battle of the eighties,” the movement to learn from the examples of unsung heroes, the socialist emulation drive, and the movement to create model machine tenders’ units—the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions, in particular, is remolding the thought of the people and effecting collective innovations in economic and cultural construction in accordance with the demands of chuche. In this way it is accelerating the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions all the more strenuously.

The thought, theory, and policy on mass movements expounded by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in various documents, including “Let Us Wage Still More Vigorously the Movement To Win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions,” are adding fresh vitality to mass movements, letting them demonstrate their great power.

When we arm ourselves securely with the party's thought and theory on mass movements, such as the principle of vigorously pushing forward the movement to win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions as a partywide undertaking, and translate this thought and theory into reality in a thoroughgoing manner, we will be able to fully implement the line of three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural by vigorously waging mass movements.

All functionaries and workers should bring about uninterrupted progress in the execution of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—by studying and coming to a greater understanding of the thought and theory on mass movements elucidated by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il and by brilliantly implementing them.

Modernization of Machine Building Industry

SK0802104890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—An energetic drive to put production process on a modern line and expand the variety of goods is going on at the factories of machine building industry in Korea.

The Nagwon Machine Complex has developed highly efficient hydraulic excavators of different types ranging from 0.25 to 4 cubic metres and deep-boring machines by solving new technological problems and began their assembly-line production. The complex is stepping up the production of large oxygen plants.

At the Sungni General Motor Works a branch engine factory has been commissioned and the modernization of the casting shop is getting into full stride.

The July 13 Factory has introduced valuable technical innovation proposals in developing new metal tools and thus lengthened their service life two or three times. The factory improved the quality of steel by a new method to open broad prospects in the production of tools and parts of ultrahigh speed precision machines.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex has remodeled coils of transformers of different kinds and increased their capacity 40 percent on an average with existing materials and labour force. A modern resin cable workshop has been commissioned at the March 26 Factory.

Ten odd production and auxiliary buildings of the April 3 Factory with a total floor space of tens of thousands of square metres have been built and the assembling of equipment is now in full swing.

The second-stage project of the Huichon-Gorky Joint Venture Company is in progress and machine factories across the country are pressing ahead with the work for modernizing production processes, putting management and operation on a scientific basis, expanding variety and improving quality.

Tourist Resorts of Kangwon Rebuilt, Expanded

SK1002000890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—Tourist resorts are being rebuilt and expanded on a large scale with the approach of a tourist season at scenic spots of Kangwon Province, eastern area of Korea.

Tens of [word indistinct] modern hotels, specific public service facilities, swimming beaches, angling sites and boating grounds are being built up.

New sightseeing courses 200 kilometres long are stretching in Mt. Kumgang well-known to the world. Along the courses in the inner Kumgang district centring around Piro Peak several bridges, pavilions and soft-drink stands will be built to suit scenic beauty.

A sightseeing cableway will be installed in the area of Kuryong Lake which forms ideal beauty with rocky cliffs, curious rocks and a crystal-clear waterfall.

The 13-storeyed Kumgangsán tourist hotel with a total floor space of 12,000 square metres and "Onjong" (?house service) complex with a total floor space of 3,000 square metres using Kumgangsán hot spring are being erected at a fast speed.

The areas of Sijung Lake and Tongjong Lake known for the specific beauty of white sands and green pine trees are turning into tourist resorts and recreation centres. Twentyfive hotel buildings with peculiar architectural beauty, a folk village which has an accommodation for 1,200 guests, angling sites and boating grounds will be constructed there.

A large swimming beach is being built up in Sijung Lake noted for mud treatment which is effective for disease [words indistinct] public service facilities are being set up and expanded in the Songdowon sea beach of Wonsan some 200 kilometres from Pyongyang. Sijung Lake is 50 kilometres away from Wonsan and Mt. Kumgang 50 kilometres again from Sijung Lake.

There are an express highway and a sea route to the scenic spots.

Many Scientific, Technological Problems Solved

SK0702154490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Members of the "February 17 Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians" of the Academy of Sciences have completed and applied thousands of technological innovation proposals and hundreds of subjects of scientific researches at more than 40 major industrial establishments and construction sites over the past one year.

The shock brigade of scientists led by Dr. U Su-han has developed hundreds of accessories needed for the operation of carbide kilns following its success in the production of carbide by oxygen blast at the Suncheon Vinalon Complex.

The scientists and technicians who are active at the construction site of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex introduced more than 200 technological innovation proposals and new building methods in the past one year and more.

Those who were dispatched to the mining industry have developed a coal-cutter of new type and completed researches into new coal cutting and washing methods, thus making a great contribution to the comprehensive mechanisation of the coal mines.

Besides, shock brigade members have developed numerical control machine tools, various kinds of robots, electronic elements, apparatuses and devices and achieved valuable research successes in heat engineering and bioengineering.

The "February 17 Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians" was organized in February 1978 to solve scientific and technological problems arising in various domains of the national economy by strengthening creative cooperation with producer masses.

Production Increases in Various Domains

SK0902232790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT
9 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—Production is being boosted in all domains of the national economy of Korea through the effective use of the existing economic foundations.

The power stations in South Pyongan Province declared a 20 per cent jump in the daily power output above that in the comparable period last year.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex has lifted the daily output by hundreds of thousands of kwh up on the like period last year and the Taedonggang Hydraulic Power Complex is topping the daily assignment by 100,000 kwh.

The daily output has jumped 30 percent above the same period last year at the Kanggye Youth Power Station and other hydraulic power stations in Chagang Province.

The March 17 Power Station is topping its daily targets by an average of 15,000 kwh.

The Musan Mining Complex has produced 2,000 more tons of iron headings on a daily average this month than in the like period last year by keeping the equipment in full capacity operation.

The coal mines under the Northern District General Bureau of coal industry are expanding their achievements in February after augmenting the output by 150,000 tons in the first month of this year than in the previous month.

The September 28 Factory and the Chonchon Rock Drill factory are carrying out their daily quotas at 150 to 200 percent, having set themselves the goal of honoring their monthly commitments by mid-February, while the industrial establishments under the General Bureau of Mining Machine Industry are sharply increasing the production of rock drills, coal cars, chain conveyers and other mining equipment.

The Sangwon Cement Complex and other cement factories are keeping a constant and high rate of production.

South Korea

Shevardnadze Remarks on 'Korean Wall' Viewed

Foreign Ministry on Remarks

SK1202051690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0500 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry cautiously commented Monday on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's call for dismantling "a wall...across the Korean peninsula dividing one people from another."

"Shevardnadze's remarks on eliminating a concrete wall on the Korean peninsula are seen as formal support of a position taken by North Korea, but may be construed as his emphasis that South and North Korea should move in the direction of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula," a highly placed official at the ministry said.

REUTER and other Western wire services quoted the Soviet foreign minister, speaking in a news conference at the end of a visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Saturday, as calling for international efforts to break down the "Korean wall" now that the Berlin Wall is being dismantled.

But Shevardnadze was quoted by the Soviet news agency TASS as using the words "concrete wall," causing some confusion among officials in South Korea since this echoes a phrase used by North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

"There has not been due reaction to the very interesting initiative by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) regarding the dismantling of the concrete wall on the demarcation zone, which divides the two parts of the peninsula, and ensuring free movement of citizens," TASS quoted Shevardnadze as saying.

"The foreign minister's remarks that circumstances have not matured for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Korea are seen as a stand for maintaining a balanced

viewpoint on Korean problems though he reaffirmed the Soviet position that U.S. troops must be pulled out from Korea," said the official, who declined to be named.

"A wall exists across the Korean peninsula dividing one people from another. The international community should aim to break down this Korean wall and ensure the free movement of peoples," Shevardnadze was also quoted by the REUTER as saying.

The difference between the "concrete wall" of TASS and the "Korean wall" of REUTER appears to have confused officials at the Korean Foreign Ministry.

A Korean wall is a symbol of the division of the Korean peninsula, while a concrete wall is a literal wall that North Korea claims exists in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas. South Korean officials deny the existence of a concrete wall.

The official, apparently based on the REUTER dispatch, said he was pleased with Shevardnadze's remarks because they "mark the first time that a high-ranking Soviet official has shown a positive attitude toward solving problems on the Korean peninsula."

"But we will be disappointed if Shevardnadze really referred to a concrete wall that does not exist. We have to make efforts through diplomatic channels to have the Soviet Union understand that there is no concrete wall," he said.

The Korean peninsula was divided along the 38th parallel in 1945, when the United States liberated the southern half of the peninsula from Japanese colonial rule and the Soviet Union did so for the northern part.

Further Assessment

SK1202094990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0920 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's call for international efforts to break down the "Korean wall" over the weekend has thrown new light on the question of the divided Korean peninsula. As he said, it would be a tremendous development if the Korean wall were to be torn down in the same way as the Berlin Wall.

"The international community should aim to break down this Korean wall and ensure the free movement of peoples. For years there was constant talk about the Berlin Wall. I would like to call on you now to raise your voices about the Korean wall," Shevardnadze told a news conference at the end of a visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The Soviet foreign minister also expressed the two superpowers' desire "to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula and to support a North-South dialogue" in a joint statement winding up their get-together. Seoul has

good reason for its unusual alertness at the remarks given the international setting surrounding the wishful rhetoric from Moscow.

The division of the Korean peninsula and the tragic war following it (1950-53) were caused by the two superarchitects, who mapped out the design at Yalta at the end of the World War II.

The historic opening of the Berlin Wall, another symbolic construct of the cold war on the other side of the planet, has brought home to Koreans the tormenting reality of their divided peoples as a new global system is shaping up after the recent Malta summit to replace the Yalta Accord in the mid-1940s.

Direct mention of the Korean peninsula, coming after hours of talks between Washington and Moscow, the two directly responsible for the division, is construed here as a precursor of full-fledged discussion.

Moreover, Baker and Shevardnadze were apparently arranging a second Bush-Gorbachev summit in June in Washington, which implies the question of the two Koreas will be taken up in the meeting. It is important to note that South Korea recently established a limited consular relationship with the Soviet Union, North Korea's ally over four decades.

U.S. diplomats have contacted their long-time antagonists from North Korea on seven occasions in Beijing, apparently to tap the possibility of normalizing bilateral relations. Analysts in Seoul attach special significance to the Moscow meeting because the Seoul government had asked Washington to raise the Korean issue.

Communist-bloc watchers here say the implication of Shevardnadze's emphasis on change in the status quo in the peninsula is a single swallow and does not indicate the arrival of a summer of harmony, but that it could initiate discussion of peace and reunification of the region among nations involved.

There are, however, cooler heads that say Shevardnadze's gesture has handed a "hot potato" to the Seoul government. An analyst bluntly says Shevardnadze's remarks were no more than formal support for North Korean leader Kim Il-sung's demand that Seoul tear down a non-existent "concrete wall" in the demilitarized zone to allow free travel between the two Koreas.

Kim made the demand in his New Year's message for propaganda purposes in the South and outside the peninsula while the Seoul government officially denies the existence of any such wall, saying there is nothing but an anti-tank barrier to counter a North Korean invasion and it is not in the DMZ.

Shevardnadze, according to REUTER, said, "a wall exists across the Korean peninsula dividing one people from another," but the official Soviet news agency TASS quoted him as using the words "concrete wall" as the North Korean leader did.

More obviously, according to TASS, the Soviet foreign minister said, "there have not been due reaction to the very interesting initiative by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) regarding the dismantling of the concrete wall on the demarcation zone, which divides the two parts of the peninsula."

This disappointed Foreign Ministry officials here and made a high-ranking official comment cautiously, "we will be disappointed if Shevardnadze really referred to a concrete wall that does not exist. We will make efforts through diplomatic channels to have the Soviet Union understand that there is no concrete wall."

After the TASS report was circulated, another official still seemed to interpret it hopefully and said, "the remarks are seen as formal support of a position taken by North Korea. It may be construed as his emphasis that South and North Korea should move in the direction of easing tensions on the peninsula."

Despite the odds against it, there still remains the hope that Shevardnadze was trying to keep everyone happy by paying lip service to North Korea on the one hand and draw worldwide attention to the division of Korea on the other, resulting in a change of the status quo.

Moscow is in a position to induce its hard-line ally to open its doors to the rest of the world as well as to side with Pyongyang over inter-Korean issues.

Despite growing trade and opening limited diplomatic ties, the Kremlin leaders have denounced the Seoul government, for example, for imposing heavy penalties on South Korean citizens who visit North Korea. Feeding the desperate hope of Koreans for reunification, the Korean peninsula is no longer an isolated island beyond the reach of global waves of change.

Kim Yong-sam Offers Comment

SK1202070690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the new ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), met with a group of six Soviet scholars Monday [12 February], including the vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, to exchange opinions on relations between the two nations and discuss his plan to visit Moscow in March.

Commenting on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's open call for dismantling "the Korean wall," Kim said that the Soviet leader's remarks marked "the beginning of a great change" and emphasized the need for early establishment of diplomatic ties between Seoul and Moscow.

"We know well about the rapid political change occurring in South Korea," said academy Vice President Konstantin Frolov. "Likewise, an atmosphere toward democratic change is settling into shape in the Soviet Union," he reportedly added.

The Soviet scientists spoke Monday afternoon at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology on Soviet scientific and technological changes under the new conditions. The Soviet scholars are expected to sign a protocol on science cooperation and exchanges of scientists between the two nations with Chong Kun-mo, head of the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation, Tuesday afternoon.

During their stay here until Feb. 17, the Soviets will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and Science-Technology Minister Yi Sang-hui. They are scheduled to have a series of meetings with leaders of the Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committees of the National Assembly.

They are also expected to conclude a basic agreement on promoting a joint project. Their itinerary includes a tour of Pohang Steel and Iron Corp. and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

Contact Set With China on Asiad Participation

SK1102020490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 11 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Korea and China will soon resume official contacts as Seoul will send a mission to China to discuss matters concerning its participation in this year's Beijing Asian Games, a senior Foreign Ministry source said yesterday.

The source said that ranking officials of the Foreign and Sports Ministries would be sent to Beijing along with a mission to be dispatched by the Korea Olympic Committee.

China plans to send a delegation to Seoul in March to receive training and information about the holding of such games from Korean officials involved in the successful hosting of the Asian and Olympic Games in 1986 and 1988, respectively.

Discussion is under way between Seoul and Beijing on the exchange of the missions, he disclosed.

The two countries had held government-level talks in third countries and exchanged officials involved in trade. But the contacts were cut following China's crushing of the pro-democracy movement in May last year.

The mission will hold talks with officials of the Chinese government and the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee on a wide range of issues related to South Korea's participation in the games.

Their talks will, however, center on consular affairs including the issuance of visas for Korean participants and tourists and guaranteeing their safety.

The government hopes that the talks will lead to a government-to-government accord enabling it to send consuls to handle matters during the games, according to the source.

It further wishes to set up a consular department in Beijing sometime after the games on a reciprocal basis just as Seoul and Moscow did when they entered into de facto consular relations last December.

With trade volume reaching about \$3 billion, both countries have felt the need to have their own consular offices in the capitals of the other country to facilitate and promote trade. There have been several rounds of talks on that issue in the past.

But Beijing is sticking to the position that trade offices, already opened in Seoul and Beijing, should deal with consular affairs without the need for any official treaty or separate offices.

Seoul's stance is that Foreign Ministry officials should handle consular business under a government-to-government accord.

Efforts to field a South and North Korea joint team ended in vain earlier last week and Seoul intends to send its own team to Beijing this September, according to sports officials.

North's Intent in Talks To Keep South From Asiad

*SK1002021690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 10 Feb 90 p 11*

[By staff reporter Son Chae-hun]

[Text] The hopes of forming a South-North joint team for the coming Beijing Asian Games was shattered when the sports talks which started March last year for this purpose ended in failure at the ninth meeting in Panmunjom Wednesday [7 Feb].

The talks held over the last 11 months only served as an occasion to confirm the deep chasm of distrust separating the two sides.

The North Korean insistence on having its absurd demands accepted continued unabated throughout the talks.

The positive attitude North Korea showed in the initial stages of the talks proved to be nothing other than a plot to deter the South from competing separately in the coming Beijing Asiad.

In the last or ninth round of talks Wednesday, the North's chief delegate, Kim Hyong-chin, forwarded a three-point demand in his key-note speech and declared unilaterally that they will refuse to meet unless their demands are met.

The three-point demand consists of a joint declaration by the South and North to renounce all intentions of fielding a separate team in the coming Asiad under any circumstance and the total withdrawal of the addendum proposed by the South to guarantee the implementation of the basic agreement for forming a joint delegation.

The third demand called for the retraction of and apology for remarks made by leading sports officials of the South concerning separate participation in the Beijing Games.

Actually, the sports talks were proceeding smoothly until the sixth round held Dec. 22 last year when the two sides agreed on 10-point basic accord for the formation of a single team.

The accord covered the joint team's name, flag, team song and ways to select and train athletes as well as the establishment of offices in Seoul and Pyongyang to oversee the accord.

The North looked far more positive and aggressive than the South in the initial stages of the talks. They readily made concessions on such knotty matters as the English name for the single team.

However, their attitude abruptly turned chilly from the fourth working-level talks on Jan. 10 this year when the South suggested a set of auxiliary accords in a move to bind both sides to the details of the agreement.

The initial contents of the safeguard measure included prior inspection of sports facilities in South and North Korea and holding goodwill volleyball and ping-pong games.

The South also called for sending a letter to the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee (BAGOC) to the effect that the two Koreas will take part in the Asiad as separate teams if the talks for forming a single team failed.

The entry deadline for the Beijing Asiad is June 22 and separate participation will become impossible if the talks are broken at a date after June 22 without such a safeguard measure, the South argued.

The North strongly rejected the idea, saying that the addition of new accords to the 10-point agreement "is tantamount to laying new obstacles in the final stage of the negotiations to form the single team."

In the next full-dress meeting, the South dropped its earlier demand for prior inspection of sports facilities and goodwill games along with other items from the auxiliary accord package.

But the South insisted on several safeguard measures to include sending a letter to BAGOC, mutual interpretation of terms in the 10-point agreement and strict observance of a timetable in the formation of the single team.

Seoul reminded Pyongyang of the failure to form a single team for the World Table Tennis Championships held in the North Korean capital in 1979 as one of the reasons for its insistence on including the additional accord in the original 10 point agreement.

However, the North stood steadfast in their opposition to the auxiliary accord and went on to demand that the South pledge not to send a separate team, regardless of the outcome of the talks.

The change of attitude by the North in the face of the safeguard measure thus serves as a revelation of the North's true intentions, which from the outset, were not to compose a single team but to prevent South Korea from taking part in the Beijing Asiad.

The recent democratization move in East European nations including the Soviet Union which started last year is also presumed to have played a part in having the North stop the talks.

The North apparently picked sports in its effort to deprive the South of its chances to improve relations with China, the North's closest ally through separate participation in the Games.

Meanwhile, the South can be said to have accepted the North's proposal for the sports talks with the aim of opening the tightly closed North Korean society to a certain degree in the course of forming the single team.

The two sides main purposes in holding the talks are far apart and they may have been destined to fail from the start.

Breakdown of North-South Sports Talks Analyzed

SK1102074590 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
8 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Breakdown of the North-South Sports Talks"]

[Text] We have found that our expectation of sending a North-South Korean single team to the Beijing Asian Games was like a castle on the sand. This is because the North-South sports talks have broken down as expected. People are excited that the communist world has changed and that the world has freed itself from the cold war. The breakdown of the North-South sports talks very clearly shows to the world that the reality on the Korean peninsula is an exception to this trend.

It has been pointed out that among a few channels of talks now underway between the North and South, the North-South sports talks is one in which the possibility of reaching an agreement is the greatest. This is because both the North and South have a pressing need to make utmost efforts to reach an agreement in sports talks. However, despite this need, the two sides have failed to narrow differences in their approaches, which have hindered them from improving the relations between them. All the world knows that the North and South have different approaches.

Our approach is that the North and South must peacefully coexist until they become one and that, based upon this peaceful coexistence, they must cooperate with each other for the sake of the co-prosperity of the nation. The allegation that this approach of ours is an antireunification plan to perpetuate division is not persuasive if viewed from a broader context. However, North Korea has not shown any sign that it accepts our realistic and fair approach based upon peaceful coexistence and the co-prosperity of the nation.

Mainly because of this, the North-South sports talks have broken down. Also because of this, no real progress has been made in other North-South talks, in which only channels of dialogue have been maintained. Any North-South talks will break down if differences in approaches

between them are not narrowed. Let us discuss, based upon common sense, why the North-South sports talks have broken down.

The North side insisted that "an agreement be reached that each side will not go to the Beijing games as a separate team under any circumstances." This means that even if the negotiations on the single team break down, each side must not go as a separate team. This is why we say that what the North side tries to do in the first place is to prevent our national flag from flying in the sky of Beijing, that is, to completely deny the existence of South Korea. No more and no less. What it openly pursues is a cold war structure.

Even at this time when the Soviet Union, the suzerain state of communism, has given up the Communist Party's one-party dictatorship and has pursued political democratization and reforms, North Korea firmly believes that a change favorable to its united front strategy will take place in South Korean society in a few years. This is a conclusion by authoritative North Korea analysts.

In reality, North Korea firmly believes in a Vietnamese-style reunification strategy, by which, using its Stalinist system under the name of socialism, which has already been ruined, it will be able to overwhelm South Korea when politicians, businessmen, workers, and people from all other walks of life in our society are off guard. How horrible this reality is! As long as North Korea believes so, North-South dialogue will fall victim to its operational scheme.

However, in our society, very many people naively harbor an "earnest desire," without knowing this reality. The "logic of a big brother" that says we can lead North Korea to open its system is based upon the notion that North Korea may change. Without caring what their dialogue partner thinks, people put forth various proposals. We cannot deny the fact that the government has fabricated falsehoods to make us believe that talks between authorities or North-South summit talks are a cure-all. However, what is the reality? We must know that only when we internally consolidate our society by achieving democratization and nurturing our national strength, will we be able lead North Korea to change.

Suspension of Inter-Korean Dialogue Assessed

SK1002093390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT
10 Feb 90

[By Chae Song-hui]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—The cold war theory, despite having lost ground elsewhere, continues to govern relations between the ideologically disparate halves of Korea. The eager anticipation of reconciliation that was generated by North Korean President Kim Il-song's New Year's speech, in which he supported wide

ranging contact with South Korea, was crushed over the past couple of weeks as Pyongyang virtually stopped all dialogue with Seoul.

Pyongyang left the sixth preparatory contact for a high-level officials meeting Jan. 31 without accepting Seoul's offer to meet again March 7 and then declared the collapse of sports talks on forming a single Korean team for the Beijing Asiad on Wednesday. And on Thursday, North Korea announced the suspension of all inter-Korean talks during the "Team Spirit" Korea-U.S. joint military exercises.

None of this puzzled South Korean officials much since it is almost a regular occurrence. North Korea normally suspends all contact with South Korea to protest Team Spirit, the annual military exercise held every spring. But this year, North Korea watchers here are carefully looking for signs that North Korea is backpedalling on its opening to the outside world as they have partially sensed from some of their observations.

Pyongyang hailed the inauguration of a new regime in Romania in a telegram sent immediately after the execution of President Nicolae Ceausescu and this month two media organizations in Pyongyang proclaimed warm admiration for the reforms policy in the Soviet Union, saying the North Korean people were "heartily pleased with what the Soviet people achieved" in their programs for renewing socialism.

Last year, North Korea showed interest in developing a scenic area near Mt. Kumgang on the East Coast into an international tourist spot in collaboration with South Korean businesses.

Kim Il-song said in his New Year speech that he was willing to widen contact and exchanges with the South if it would tear down a concrete wall just South of the Demilitarized Zone. South Korean officials categorically deny the existence of a wall. The same speech was noticeably missing his long-held call for the U.S. troops to withdraw from South Korea and hinted that Kim had dropped his call for social organizations in South Korea to attend his version of a South-North Korean political conference.

Some North Korea watchers believe Pyongyang may be backing down from its high-profile moves toward reconciliation as it needs more time to develop its policy on the reforms movement now sweeping Eastern Europe.

Other more pessimistic observers say that Pyongyang might be trying to tighten control over society to prevent the intrusion of unwanted reforms and note that the North Korean Government has failed to make good on its promise, made public in November last year, to allow free travel within provinces.

Informed sources here say a special meeting of chiefs of diplomatic missions at the end of last year in Pyongyang came to the conclusion that liberalization of inter-province travel would dangerously accelerate the flow of

information among the North Korean populace. Some analysts in Seoul are cautiously studying the likelihood that inter-Korean dialogue will remain stalemated for a prolonged period. In previous years, talks would resume when Team Spirit ended in April.

They point out that North Korean negotiators recently attacked not only the military exercise but also the inauguration of a new ruling party in the South, calling the alliance of two opposition parties with the ruling party a ploy to cement one-party rule.

The single-party state ruled by Kim Il-song since the latter part of the 1940s may feel irritated at the advent of a massive majority party in the South since it has long called for a conference of representatives from all political and social organizations on the Korean peninsula. The staunchly anti-communist leaders of South Korea suspect North Korea's leaders of trying to take advantage of divided opinion in the South by holding such a conference.

The merger coincided with Washington's revelation of long-term plans to cut its forces in South Korea, making the public conscious of the need for a "self-reliant" defense posture.

South Calls for Cultural Exchanges With North

SK1202023890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea on Sunday [11 February] called for the two Koreas to pursue cultural exchanges in order to move toward reunification. Culture Minister Yi O-yong and National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku, in "A Five-Point Principle on Cultural Exchanges to Recover Cultural Homogeneity," demanded the exchanges begin with cultural items dating from before the division of the Korean peninsula at the end of World War II.

The ministers said the five-point principle was drawn up to be used as a reference for future cultural exchanges and the offer will be officially proposed to the North in March. They said competitive attitudes and expressions undermining the cultural exchanges should be banned.

In addition, the first exchanges should be small and easy so that both sides will make continued efforts until periodical joint events are established. The call was issued by the two Yi's during a ceremony of "Tapkyo Nori," or treading the bridge, outside a pavilion called Imjingak at the edge of the demilitarized zone.

The Shamanist ceremony was to have been held on Saturday, the first full moon by the lunar calendar, but was postponed because of bad weather and moved from Freedom Bridge.

*** North's Ranking Political Reformers Identified**

902C0094A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean
No 1076, 26 Nov 89 pp 12-15

[Article by editorial staff writer Kim Yun-kon:
"Who Will Lead Reform in North Korea?"]

[Text] At a time when radical changes are taking place in the communist world, will only North Korea hold fast to the Stalinist Kim Il-song's system? The majority of experts in North Korean affairs say "no." In view of the challenges North Korea is facing, they say, the Kim Il-song system has reached the limit in its ability to avoid comparisons with the outside world. In a recent seminar that dealt with North Korean issues, it was predicted that North Korea, too, will face changes in three to four years, and Professor Edward Olson, an American expert in national security problems, drew wide attention when he said, "There are several good reasons to expect to see another Gorbachev in Pyongyang someday."

If, indeed, a "North Korean Gorbachev" is to show up to reform the present North Korean system, when would he come and who could fit the mold? Let's explore these issues based on the internal and external changes and the power structure of North Korea.

Delay in Transfer of Power to Kim Chong-il Expected Because of Poor Economy and Domestic and External Challenges

A long delay is expected in the transfer of power in North Korea from Kim Il-song to his son Kim Chong-il. Although Kim Il-song has never made it clear when he will transfer the power, his own schedule of the planned transfer of power has apparently been brought to a halt. This is because the domestic and external challenges North Korea is facing have made it difficult for Kim Il-song to retire comfortably.

The North Korean economy is growing worse because of domestic problems. Steel manufacturing, which is considered most important in the economic development of North Korea, increased only 300,000 tons from 6.6 million tons in 1985 to 6.9 million tons in 1988, and the grain production still remains at the 1984 level of 10 million tons despite nationwide efforts to increase production. Other industries—including electric power, coal, cement, chemical fertilizer, textile, and fisheries—have shown similar results. Moreover, pressure to repay foreign loans has become increasingly serious, and the current balance is \$3.5-4 billion, which is a large sum compared with \$4.5 billion in total trade. In addition, North Korea pressed ahead with its \$4.7 billion project of "capital construction" for the Pyongyang festival, which resulted in a nationwide depletion of funds and materials as well as suspension of most of the regional projects.

Because of external problems, the North Korean leaders wake up every day to the agonizing news of the frightful changes in Eastern Europe. In particular, the father and son, Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, will inevitably feel

the effects of changes in power structure in the Eastern European countries—changes which will become a challenge to them.

But they are in a dilemma because though they are searching they have not yet found a way out of this situation. How could they carry out economic reform while blocking the winds of freedom from the West? How could they grope for an open-door policy limited only in economic areas while exerting a maximum effort to block Western influence on politics? It is getting more and more difficult to find key answers to these questions because of the radical changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Perhaps, North Korea is just hoping that China [PRC], which is the nearest neighbor that remains its staunch ally, will be slow on reform, and is waiting until something happens.

Perhaps, Kim Il-song himself knows better than anyone else that the "Leader Comrade" Kim Chong-il who is known as a "genius in cultural arts" does not possess the leadership qualities to be effective in coping with this problem. Therefore, Kim Il-song will have to give up the opportunity to spend the rest of his life in peace as an "abdicated king," living in tranquility with his son, Kim Chong-il, at the helm. Kim Il-song is already 77 years old. Considering that it is difficult to maintain one's mental faculties during periods of hardship once a person has reached 80, it is judged that his [plan for an] honorable transfer of power is no longer feasible.

It is highly probable that Kim Il-song will hold on to power until his death in troubled times, just like Mao Tse-tung of China and Brezhnev of the Soviet Union. After all, he may not be able to firmly establish his son as the successor.

Most experts in North Korean affairs agree that Kim Chong-il could inherit power for a time, should Kim Il-song die or be forced out of power. But they also agree that the Kim Chong-il era may not last long.

Party's Third-Ranking Official O Chin-u, a Member of Military Affairs Committee, Has Little Support From the Power Class and the Masses

Kim Chong-il's qualification as Kim Il-song's successor is limited only to the fact that he is believed to be Kim Il-song's incarnation. Kim Chong-il is known only as a "genius of cultural arts," and he lacks the charisma found among most dictators. Neither the fact that Kim Chong-il was born in (Okyanskya), a remote mountain village in the Soviet Union, or the fabrication that he was born in a secret camp of Mount Paektu, thereby enhancing his image among the North Korean residents as a person born with some kind of special spirit and energy, but he has not even established that he has a firm view of ideological value judgment. It is just that when he was young he had opportunities to become involved in and learn about areas of cultural arts—something that poor children could hardly expect—and this enabled him to grow into a "genius of cultural arts."

Judging from his qualifications, it is obvious that once Kim Chong-il holds full power in the absence of Kim Il-song, North Korea will be heading for deeper troubles in almost all areas, including politics, economy, social and cultural areas, etc. In such a situation, the silent faction, which Kim Chong-il does not embrace, will launch an organized movement. Of course, there will be both domestic and foreign allies, and it is difficult to predict exactly how Kim Chong-il will be ousted from power. But obviously, the more power he exercises, the stronger the counterforce will get.

Next to Kim Chong-il, in accordance with current ranks, is O Chin-u, a member of the Military Affairs Committee. O Chin-u is a full member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Korean Workers Party (KWP) Central Committee, which is a nucleus of the North Korean power structure. The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau is formally a council, but in reality it has only three members—Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u. Thus, this organization is Kim Il-song's own one-man organization because Kim Chong-il is Kim Il-song's incarnation and O Chin-u is nothing more than a faithful dog that guards the father-and-son Kims' power system. Since the time of Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrillas, O Chin-u has only followed Kim Il-song, and whenever any power struggle erupted within North Korea, he only obeyed Kim Il-song's orders and distinguished himself as a perpetrator who ruthlessly purged political enemies. In recognition of his services, he won the absolute confidence of Kim and has continuously retained the third rank since the party's Sixth Congress in 1980.

However, he does not have the confidence of the masses or power groups. He is not suitable for the job of handling the challenges of economic crisis and the external pressure to open the North Korean doors, the most critical problems confronting North Korea. Although he has worked in key posts of the military, he is known as a soldier who remains stuck with outdated concepts of strategy. At the end of the 1960's, he purged high-ranking military officials who stressed the importance of modern warfare and military alliance, and built a strategic system that employs a mixture of regular warfare and guerrilla warfare.

O Chin-u, 72, has not appeared in official meetings since September 1986, and thus is thought to be in bad health. Because even the socialist justification for military dictatorship is already losing ground, it is highly unlikely that O Chin-u will succeed Kim Chong-il and seize the reins of the supreme power even though North Korea is a completely closed society. Rather, he could perish faster than Kim Chong-il.

Then, who will inherit the North Korean power after Kim Il-song's death and the resulting chaos. Once the system of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il comes to an end, powerful organizations of North Korea will conduct a serious examination of future directions of the party and the nation. In such a case, the political changes tend

to favor the position of the progressive reformers rather than the staunch conservatives. In a public debate, the narrow-minded people who have supported only the Kim Il-song's unitarian system will be unable to challenge the rational people with their international perspective.

Kye Ung-tae: Strong in Economic Policy, Weak in Organizational Skills

In view of these, it is rather important to examine who the conservatives are and who the progressives are in the power class. Within the North Korean power structure above the party level, and within the military system that maintains a tight intelligence network and mutual control, it is impossible for an unknown soldier to suddenly seize the supreme power through a coup d'etat overnight. In order to be able to seize the supreme power, he must be a person who has already climbed quite high within the power structure and is deeply trusted while having excellent organizational skills.

Then, the next place to search is the Political Bureau, which is the most powerful organization next to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau. At present, there are 10 full members and eight candidate members within the Political Bureau of KWP. The most influential of these Political Bureau members are those who hold the additional post of secretary in the Secretariat, which takes full charge of day-to-day affairs of the party. At present, those who hold both the full membership and the title of secretary are Kye Ung-tae and Ho Tam, whereas Chon Pyong-ho is the only candidate member holding the title of secretary.

Kye Ung-tae, 71, was born of a wealthy family in Kilchu, North Hamkyong Province, and dropped out of Pongchon College in Manchuria. He also studied in the Soviet Union. He started his career as a section chief of the International Department of the KWP Central Committee, and rose as a diplomat in foreign trade and finally became a member of the Political Bureau. Thus, he has a good sense for international affairs and might have a correct understanding of economic problems in North Korea.

In particular, Kye Ung-tae has a sort of pioneer spirit and has demonstrated his ability to establish diplomatic ties by creating trade relations with countries that had no diplomatic relationship with North Korea. During his career, he held the following posts: chairman of Trade Promotion Committee, minister of foreign trade, vice premier, and responsible secretary of the KWP Committee of South Pyongan Province. He is a simple and honest individual who sticks to basic principles and tends to be conservative; but once given the supreme power, he could possibly attempt to carry out reform and open-door policies by placing emphasis on economic matters. In other words, he has the necessary fiber to become the "Gorbachev of North Korea." However, he does not have a strong domestic foundation for support and lacks skills to maneuver the power structure. It is

said that such a limited ability in political skills caused his demotion in 1980 from the status of full member to candidate member of the Political Bureau.

Ho Tam: Superior Sense for International Affairs, a Strong Candidate in the Absence of Kim Chong-il

Compared with Kye Ung-tae, Ho Tam is a talented diplomat, too. But Ho Tam has the advantage of having had many opportunities to solidify his domestic base since the KWP's Sixth Congress in October 1980. Even today, Ho Tam is chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, which is the frontline organization for reunification with South Korea, and he takes full charge of the North Korean relations with South Korea. Because his duties are an extremely important part of the North Korean security problems, he is able to meet frequently with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, and this gives him the advantage of being able to promote his own men. Moreover, Ho Tam is personally related to the Kims because Ho Tam's wife is a daughter of Kim Il-song's father's sister.

Ho Tam, 64, was born in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, and is relatively young—another advantage in a power struggle. He saw the liberation [of the Korean peninsula] while he was a student at Wonsan Middle School, and studied at Kim Il-song University and also in the Soviet Union. He is a member of the elite North Korean ruling class. He started his career as adviser to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and has climbed up to the posts of minister of foreign affairs, director of the External Affairs Department, and vice premier with an additional duty as director of the External Affairs Department. In particular, after becoming the director of External Affairs Department in July 1970, he established diplomatic relations with some 60 countries until mid-1977, which won him Kim Il-song's confidence.

At the Sixth Congress of the party, he was elected a member of the committee to prepare the draft of the decisions of the party congress, a Central Committee member, and a candidate member of the Political Bureau. Since then, his activities turned from diplomacy to internal affairs. In December 1983, he left the post of director of the External Affairs Department which he had held for 13 years, and was appointed as secretary of the KWP Secretariat. At the same time, he was promoted from a candidate member to a full member of the Political Bureau.

Because Ho Tam has visited many countries, he is well versed in international affairs and knows South Korea well. He has first-hand access to important intelligence information. He probably has his own thoughts about the direction of North Korea after Kim Il-song's death. Ho Tam is being watched most closely because he could succeed Kim Il-song if Kim Chong-il ultimately fails.

If Ho Tam is given the supreme power, it is highly probable that he could ignite a reform in North Korea. Ho Tam, who is careful and sincere on the job, would try hard to face up to the reality of domestic and external

changes. At present, Ho Tam is considered the best candidate to become a "Gorbachev of North Korea."

Aside from those mentioned above, there are other candidates, such as Vice President Pak Song-chol and Vice President Yi Chong-ok, fourth and fifth in rank respectively after Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u. Pak Song-chol joined the communist movement while he was a student, and climbed up to the post of vice president through the ranks of a military division commander, diplomat, director of External Affairs, deputy premier, and premier. He has also visited South Korea a few times since the South-North Korean talks began in 1972. He is a man with a colorful background. Pak Song-chol, too, could possibly attempt a reform if he were given the supreme power.

Although Yi Chong-ok is presently a high-ranking official, he is purely a technical bureaucrat without political competency and is 78 years old—one year older than Kim Il-song. In addition, because Yi Chong-ok's background is mainly in the heavy industries, he is not the right individual to undertake the task of overcoming the economic hardships North Korea is confronted with.

Next to Yi Chong-ok is So Chol, chairman of the KWP Central Inspection Committee, who was a partisan and was a leader in the Bolshevik revolution line against South Korea. Not only does he lack the ability for big jobs, but also he has reached the advanced age of 82. After Kim Il-song's death, he could become the first one to join O Chin-u to attack the reformers.

The next in rank is Kim Yong-nam, vice premier, with an additional appointment as director of the External Affairs Department. He was promoted to a full member of the Political Bureau and secretary; but because he has been engaged only in diplomatic work, he lacks domestic support in politics.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk, a full member of the Political Bureau next to Kye Ung-tae and Ho Tam, was a technical bureaucrat, but made his way up through a close association with Kim Chong-il. Thus, he is a man with the style of Kim Chong-il. He is a graduate of Mangyong Revolutionary School and is expected to share Kim Chong-il's lot. In addition, So Yun-sok, responsible secretary of the KWP Committee of South Pyongan Province, and Kang Song-san, responsible Secretary of the KWP Committee of North Hamkyong Province who was once premier, are graduates of Mangyong Revolutionary School and are taking on the leadership role in establishing the Kim Chong-il system. They, too, will likely share Kim Chong-il's lot.

Last in rank among the full members of the Political Bureau is Hong Song-nam, vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Committee, who was the first North Korean to study abroad at the Prague Institute of Industries in Czechoslovakia. As a member of the elite class who studied mechanical engineering, he started his career as an administrator in the area of heavy industries; but since 1968, he has been a party official and has

worked on state planning. Because he has had some experience within the power circle, he is thought to have his own ideas about the North Korean system. In the absence of Ho Tam, he is the person who will most likely become a reformist once given the supreme power.

Most of the candidate members of the Political Bureau are either those who provide unconditional support to the Kim Chong-il system or those whose abilities are still being tested. Aside from those mentioned above, there are a few noteworthy individuals who have been dismissed from high-level posts and are now outside the government, but it is highly unlikely that they will rise to attain the supreme power.

However, no matter who becomes the "Gorbachev of North Korea," he is unlikely to launch a radical movement to debase Kim Il-song unless he is someone who has come back to life after being purged by Kim Il-song. This is because there is a danger that an absolute disapproval of the Kim Il-song system could mean denying the validity of and could lead to the collapse of the North Korean system. But it is still possible that methods could be devised to turn those who have wielded the most power under Kim Il-song into sacrificial lambs. In such a case, it is highly probable that Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u, along with the executives who are the graduates of Mangyong Revolutionary School, will face a fate similar to that of the foursome after the death of Mao Tse-tung.

South on Kim Il-song's Reaction to World Events

*SK1102050290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 11 Feb 90 p 2*

[Text] As further evidence that north Korea has no intention of reforming its system, Kim Chong-il, heir-apparent to Kim Il-song, gave an interview recently to the Cuban Communist newspaper GRANMA in which he exhorted north Korean Communist Party members to follow the "one and only revolutionary ideology," a north Korea watcher said yesterday.

At the same time, he said that the north Korean press has started referring to the younger Kim as "the father of the people" after a news report that during the elder Kim's visit to Beijing he told Chinese leaders of his intention to retire. Kim Il-song made a secret visit to Beijing in November for reassurance that the Chinese were still friendly.

Kim Il-song expressed his disapproval of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms by sending his New Year's greetings first to China. He had traditionally greeted Moscow first.

The 77-year-old Kim was stunned by the overthrow of his close friend, Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu. He felt a kinship because Ceausescu, like Kim, had built a

personality cult around himself, installed family members in positions of power, kept an iron grip on the reigns of government and lived in wealth and luxury in the midst of abject poverty.

Pointing out that Kim Il-song's recent calls for a reunified peninsula are being met with skepticism because of the huge disparity that exists between the prosperous south, which has worked economic miracles, and the impoverished "hermit kingdom of north Korea," he said that the Soviet government, which is north Korea's primary source of economic, technical, and military aid, has publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the many problems that plague the north Korean economy.

In his New Year's speech, Kim referred to the "concrete wall" that separated the two countries, which is, in fact, a barbed-wire fence.

What Kim didn't refer to in his comments was an article of the north Korean Workers Party Constitution that calls for reunification of the two countries under Communist rule, the north Korea watcher pointed out.

"Until that basic law is changed, north Korea cannot meet south Korea's most important condition for talks, which is that there must be mutual recognition of the existing political systems," he concluded.

Appellate Court Reduces Sentences of Mun, Yu

*SK1002062490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0617 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—An appellate court reduced the 10-year sentences of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and his associate, Yu Won-ho, to seven years and suspended their civil rights for the same period Saturday. The Seoul Criminal Court of appeals dismissed some of the charges for lack of evidence but upheld their convictions for illegally visiting North Korea by a lower court in October. The ruling declared that the lower court violated judicial procedures because it proceeded with a hearing without the presence of the defendants.

The court acquitted the 71-year-old Mun of the charge that he acted in concert with the doctrine of Pyongyang's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland while in the North and declared Yu, 60, not guilty of receiving instructions from the North in connection with his clandestine trip.

Mun, a Presbyterian pastor and leading dissident, made a 20-day visit to North Korea last March. While there, he met President Kim Il-song and other North Korean officials. Yu, a former secretary to an opposition party leader, accompanied Mun on the trip. Both were arrested immediately on their return to the South in April for making unauthorized trip to Pyongyang in violation of the National Security Law.

Labor Union Group Loses 'Quarter' of Members

SK0702031490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] A quarter of the labor unions affiliated with Chonnohyop [National Council of Labor Unions] have dropped out of the umbrella body of reform-seeking labor unions, the Labor Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry spokesman said that Chonnohyop's membership had shrunk from 187,031 unionized workers from 587 labor unions last December to 161,254 from 449 as of Feb. 2.

Chonnohyop's membership has decreased chiefly because the government, branding the reformist body as an illegal organization, launched large-scale crackdowns on its activities, he said.

In addition, a majority of the people disagreed with Chonnohyop's radical labor actions particularly at a time when the nation is suffering economic depression, he added.

The spokesman said that even some of the labor unions participating in Chonnohyop opposed its radical strategies including politically-oriented struggles.

Major labor unions which bolted from Chonnohyop were those of 19 companies affiliated with the Pohang Iron and Steel Co., the Daedong Heavy Ind. Co. and the Korea Explosives Co., the ministry said.

Police Search Houses To Arrest Labor Leader

SK1002022890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 10 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] The National Police Headquarters [NPH] gave a one month-period to its own forces for the arrest of the leader of an outlawed labor organization.

The NPH ordered police stations across the country to arrest Tan Pyong-ho, chairman of the National Council of Trade Unions [NCTU], by every means available

before March 3. He has been put on the wanted list for his leading role in forming the NCTU or Chonnohyop.

Under the NPH direction, police stations have set up special investigation squads to apprehend the labor activist who went into hiding after inaugurating the disputed organization in Suwon late last month.

The special probing teams plan to make house-to-house searches for the Chonnohyop leader in hideout twice a day, once in the morning and again in the afternoon during the set period.

The investigation teams, which comprise detectives and information demanding police officers, are under the command of the chiefs of police substations.

An NPH officer said yesterday that the squads will also search for temples, cathedrals, churches, inns and the apartment houses for bachelors to arrest the labor leader.

Government To Resume Importing Oil From Libya

SK1202042890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT
12 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea will resume imports of Libyan crude this year, it was agreed by the Korea-Libya joint committee at a meeting last week in Tripoli. The Korean delegation, led by Construction Minister Kwon Yong-kak, agreed to import 10,000 to 15,000 barrels of Libyan crude a day at 60 U.S. cents below the official price, Construction Ministry Officials said Monday [12 February].

Details of the deal have yet to be ironed out, the officials said, but imports could begin in the first half. Korea stopped importing Libyan oil in 1988 because the official price was much higher than the spot market price.

The two countries also agreed to promote economic and cultural cooperation, concluding a cultural agreement and another on science and technology, according to the officials. Under the agreements, Korea will invite 85 Libyan experts in agriculture and basic sciences to study in Korea. They also agreed in principle to sign an aviation agreement in the near future.

Burma

Troops Overrun Mon Headquarters; 10,000 Flee

*BK1202021990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Feb 90 p 3*

[Text] Three Pagodas Pass, Kanchanaburi—Burmese troops overran the New Mon State Party headquarters [HQ] at the border here yesterday after four hours of intense fighting which sent 10,000 civilians fleeing across the border.

The 300-strong Burmese force set fire to some buildings in the Mon headquarters shortly after capturing it about 11 a.m. yesterday.

The extent of damage to the headquarters which was set up by the anti-Rangoon minority about 20 years ago was not immediately known, however.

The Burmese troops began shelling the Mon headquarters about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Rangoon's main attack force gained complete control of the stronghold four hours later after armed Mon fighters retreated into the jungle.

Burmese troops on Friday overran the blackmarket run by the Mon rebels at Three Pagodas Pass following 10 days of fighting and seized key rebel positions including the Mon district headquarters, its 9th Battalion headquarters and the party's combat training school.

New Mon State Party Present Shiwe Kyin claimed yesterday that certain timber merchants had assisted the Burmese in crushing the Mon's resistance force.

He said that the merchants had helped transport Burmese troops to the Mon-controlled territory in their trucks.

Mon resistance sources claimed the trucks carried goods concealed under blankets from the Thai side of the Three Pagodas Pass market to the captured Mon blackmarket on the other side of the border.

It was believed the goods were food supplies.

Thai local security sources said they were surprised the Mon HQ had fallen under Burmese control after such a short period of fighting with Burmese troops.

The HQ and the black market were defended by about 1,500 of the Mon's 3,000-member armed force.

The fall of the HQ meant that the Mon resistance has now lost all of its border command posts to the Burmese.

Mon and Karen leaders said here yesterday the two minority groups have joined hands to launch a counter-attack against the Burmese soldiers soon.

Kanchanaburi Governor Khongsak Lieomanomon told reporters yesterday he had ordered Thai officials at the

border pass to remain strictly neutral and not to side with any of the warring parties.

The border pass would be temporarily closed because of the fighting.

Thais Find 13 More Bodies of Burmese Soldiers

*BK1202014590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Feb 90 p 3*

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Thai border security units yesterday recovered 13 more bodies of Burmese soldiers who intruded into Thai territory on Saturday [10 February], bringing the death toll among intruders to 21.

The Thai forces also captured another wounded Burmese soldier.

The bodies were recovered at Ban Wang Kaeo and Ban Nong Bua Daeng, opposite the Karen National Union's Kawmura Camp which has been targeted for attacks by Burmese government troops.

The wounded Burmese soldier, arrested in Ban Nong Bua Daeng, was identified as Pvt Kyaw Naing U of the 111th Battalion.

On Saturday, Thai forces captured Maj Saw Win, deputy commander of the 16th Battalion, and Cpl Than Aung of the same battalion.

All three were attached to the Burmese Army's 33rd Division.

Seven bamboo ladders were also found while the Thai security forces scoured the area where they fought Burmese troops on Saturday.

Early Saturday morning about 300 Burmese soldiers crossed into Thai territory in an attempt to use Ban Wang Kaeo as a springboard to attack Kawmura Camp.

A Thai Border Patrol Police force fired more than 90 mortar rounds at the Burmese unit after it ignored warning shots.

The Burmese unit retreated back across the border, and eight bodies of Burmese soldiers were found by Thai troops later on Saturday.

Task Force 34 deputy commander Col Bunlua Simek said the Burmese authorities in Myawaddy had contacted the local Thai-Burmese Border Joint Coordinating Committee in Mae Sot to return the wounded soldiers.

The Thai side will return them today to the Burmese authorities, he said.

Five more stray shells landed at Ban Wang Kae yesterday as fighting continued between Burmese government soldiers and Karen rebels.

The explosions, however, inflicted no damage or casualties.

In another development, a man dressed as a Buddhist monk was arrested yesterday by Thai rangers while he was trying to enter Ban Wang Kae which was declared off limits by Task Force 34.

The man identified himself as Phra Somphong Phantopaso. The rangers searched his cloth bag and found two cameras, a Burmese map showing the area of fighting between Karen rebels and Burmese troops, and many rolls of film.

The film, after being developed, showed the "monk" among groups of Karen rebels and in the area intruded by the Burmese soldiers.

Phra Somphong had no identification cards or certificate to show he was in the monkhood, except a card showing he was a member of the Buddhism Protection Organisation.

He claimed that he knew many of the senior monks in Mae Sot, but the senior monks denied knowing him.

Mae Sot district chief abbot Phra Phatchantakanarak and other senior monks agreed that Phra Sompong should be disrobed and interrogated by the authorities on suspicion of spying.

Karen Rebels Threaten To Shell Thai Territory

BK1102102090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 11 Feb 90

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Manerplaw, Burma, Feb 11 (AFP)—Ethnic Karen rebels in Burma will shell Thailand if Burmese Government troops attack from that side of the border, guerrilla leader Bo Mya has warned.

"Where the Burmese troops are, we can shell," the portly Karen chief said about fighting between his rebels and troops that is escalating in a strategic border region earmarked for a U.N.-supported Asian highway.

Asked if this meant that the Karens, who have bases along 300 kilometers (180 miles) of Burma's border with Thailand, would use their mortars and artillery against Thai territory, he said "yes." He also warned his guerrillas would sabotage logging in areas that Burmese troops have seized from the Karens to trade with Thailand.

The comments Friday [9 February] at his Manerplaw headquarters came only hours before Burmese troops and Karen rebels clashed in Thailand, just opposite the Karen's Kawmura camp on the Burmese side of the border bristling with mortars and bunkered machine-gun emplacements. The fighting ended Saturday, apparently without Karen shelling as their troops counter-attacked in Thailand.

Thai troops captured a Burmese major and an enlisted man and reported 14 Burmese troops dead on Thai soil, Thai military sources said in Mae Sot, just south of the

battlesite, which is 500 kilometers (300 miles) northwest of Bangkok and 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of Rangoon.

"Wherever the enemy stays, that is the front line," General Bo Mya said in Manerplaw, 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of the fighting.

The Karens, the most long-running of a dozen ethnic insurgencies fighting for regional autonomy since Burma became independent in 1948, have so far refrained from shelling in Thailand. They strive to maintain good relations since their main bases are all along the border.

Their change of policy on counter-attacks and shellings comes as Rangoon troops make unprecedented gains, taking lucrative Thai-oriented teak and smuggling businesses away from the Karens in an attempt to destroy their economic base.

Rangoon is angered that the Karens host thousands of students who fled central Burma after a military coup in September 1988 crushed nationwide pro-democracy protests. It has responded by capturing about one-third of the 400 kilometer (240 mile) border stretch the Karens controlled.

The Burmese attack Friday, timed to an eclipse of the moon, was the third major incursion into Thailand since December 1988.

Burmese troops last may burn the Thai market of Wang Kaeo opposite Kawmura in an attack on the key Karen camp, which controls access to Mae Sot and the Burmese town of Myawaddy which faces it across the Moei River. These two towns would be a crossing point for the U.N.-supported project to build a highway spanning Asia.

The Karen counter-attack was the first time the Karens had answered by moving their own troops into Thailand, although a similar incident occurred in 1984 at the border town of Maw Po Kay.

The battle from late Friday until early Saturday pitted some 2,000 Burmese soldiers against a Karen force about half that size at Kamura, built along the Moei which is the Thai-Burmese border in this sector, reliable sources said.

Karen fighters attacked a Burmese company of about 300 men trying to attack Kawmura late Friday from the rear, which faces Thailand, a Karen major said here Saturday, translating Karen battle reports coming by walkie-talkie.

Karens took two Burmese prisoners as they repulsed the attack on Kawmura, Major Ganemy Kunoo said. Two Karen units of 50 each took the prisoners back to Kawmura. Maj. Ganemy did not indicate the total size of the Karen force.

Thai troops also captured two Burmese soldiers, a Major Kyaw Win and an enlisted man Kyaw Naing U, Thai

military sources said in Mae Sot. The Thais also captured three Burmese army ammunition porters, the sources added.

Thai sources in Mae Sot said one Thai ranger was killed and one villager wounded in the fighting, near Wang Kaeo. Four houses in the village burned down after being hit by stray mortar shells, they said. The sources said the Burmese troops left Wang Kaeo Saturday morning after being sent away by the Thai military.

They said nine Burmese soldiers and six Karen rebels were killed in the clash. The Karens put their casualties as three dead and 50 wounded while a Karen spokesman in Mae Sot said he had seen 27 Burmese dead on the Thai side.

Health Minister, Delegation Return From Malaysia

BK1102091890 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Pe Thein, minister of health and education of the Union of Myanma [Burma] and commander in chief of the University Training Corps, and a Myanma delegation which visited Malaysia returned by air from that country this afternoon. The trip was to study health and education programs for regional development at the invitation of Mr. Ng Chen Kiat, health minister of Malaysia. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Attempts To Sabotage Indonesian Ties Alleged

BK0302101890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 3 (AFP)—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of Malaysia Saturday accused unnamed groups of sabotaging his country's ties with Indonesia by protesting the hanging here of an Indonesian drug trafficker last month.

"I don't understand what the issue is all about. We have hanged foreigners in Malaysia before and we have not protested when Malaysians are hanged overseas," he said.

Several Indonesian groups last month protested the hanging of Indonesian Basrie Masse in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, despite an eleventh hour appeal for a reprieve by the Indonesian Government.

Basrie, 37, was convicted of trafficking in 973 grams (34 ounces) of marijuana, an offence carrying a mandatory death sentence under Malaysian law.

"I fear certain quarters are trying to sour our special relationship with Indonesia," Dr. Mahathir said, without identifying those involved. "I am confident the

situation will return to normal," he said. Dr. Mahathir said that Malaysians were subject to foreign laws when abroad and local laws must apply to foreigners in Malaysia.

A1. Indonesian diplomat said the decision to appeal was based on good legal grounds. He said that Malaysian authorities had also failed to inform the Indonesian Consul in Kota Kinabalu of Mr. Basrie's arrest.

Mr. Basrie's hanging raised the number of foreigners here sent to the gallows for drug trafficking to 18, according to police statistics. Those hanged include six Singaporeans, three Thais, two Australians and a Briton.

'South-South' Cooperation Program To Expand

BK0502074390 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0627 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 5 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia will send experts overseas soon under the 10-year Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) to promote South-South cooperation.

Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Monday the prime minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed had directed that the activities of the MTCP should be expanded to include attachment of Malaysian experts in foreign countries.

Apart from sending officials abroad, Malaysia is considering to offer assistance to Third World countries to build training centres and workshops, he said after opening three courses under the MTCP here.

The MTCP, launched in 1980, has mostly been confined to providing scholarships and study awards for studies at institutions here and conducting courses for participants from developing countries at local training facilities.

"We are now thinking of giving physical contributions to them which may include helping them to build their training facilities," said Dr Abdullah Fadzil. As such, Malaysians would have to be sent abroad to impart their expertise, he added.

Apart from this, Malaysian experts, such as those in palm oil technology, might also be sent to conduct training programmes and lectures overseas.

He said among the first countries that Malaysia is contemplating to venture to under the programme are the Frontline states of Southern Africa which are setting up training facilities. "Our expertise, such as those in the construction industry, might be able to help them," he added.

Dr Abdullah Fadzil said through the MTCP, Malaysia had gained substantially in terms of international political influence and making Malaysia known to the developing countries.

The three courses being conducted at the National Institute of Public Administration [Intan] are on human resources and crisis management.

Apart from Malaysians, 31 participants from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei, Egypt, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and the Pacific island of Tuvalu are attending the courses.

Since 1980, Intan has provided training for 635 participants from 37 countries under the MTCF.

Mahathir Welcomes Development in South Africa

BK0302152390 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Malaysia welcomes the development in South Africa as a step forward to fulfilling the aspirations of the black community in that country. The prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, terming the development as major, says it is as a result of the tough stand taken by the international community, including the imposition of sanction and restriction. He is glad that the South African regime realizes the futility of the racist policy. It would lead to better cooperation between the blacks and whites.

The prime minister was commenting on an announcement by the South African Government which among others, lifted the ban on the African National Congress, ANC, and the release of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela at a later date. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir said in Kuala Lumpur that, in his capacity as the chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, he has written to all major banks worldwide urging them not to issue new loans or reschedule debts to South Africa. Many of the banks have written back expressing support.

Asked by reporters if the Commonwealth will ease restrictions on South Africa following the development, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it is too early to do so. However, Malaysia is willing to send more assistance to the ANC and the Pan African Congress. The assistance includes training in various forms.

Leaders Send Message on Iranian National Day

BK1102091290 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah has sent a congratulatory message to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in conjunction with the republic's national day.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, in a similar message to the Iranian president, hoped that bilateral ties would be further strengthened.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar also sent a similar message to his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

SRV Boat People Return Home, More To Follow

BK0602050390 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0414 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 6 (BERNAMA)—Eleven Vietnamese boat people returned to Vietnam voluntarily Saturday [3 February] while 95 others have applied to Hanoi to go home, according to a press report.

THE STAR, quoting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said 88 others have shown initial interest in repatriation. The 11 were all males, including a five-year-old boy accompanied by his father. They were flown to Ho Chi Minh City aboard a Malaysia Airlines plane.

The 11 who applied to be reunited with their families under the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme would be given monthly cash allowances for a year. With the latest batch, 29 have returned home under the programme since the beginning of last year.

Changes 'Will Not Affect' ASEAN-EC Ties

BK0602063790 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar says current developments in the Soviet Union, East Germany, Romania, and other Eastern bloc countries will not affect ASEAN's standing as an important dialogue partner of the European Community. This is because ASEAN has proved itself to be a politically stable and economically dynamic grouping with great potentials for future growth. He was speaking to reporters in Kuching after a 2-day visit to Sarawak State in East Malaysia. Datuk Abu Hassan said the conducive conditions, coupled with ASEAN's rich natural assets and abundant raw materials, make the region an attractive economic and investment area for the EC.

The eighth ASEAN-EC foreign ministers meeting in Kuching in the middle of this month will hold in-depth discussions on economic, political, and environmental issues. Other topics concern Cambodia and the Vietnamese boat people problem. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed will open the meeting.

Rithauddeen Defends Peace Accord With CPM

BK0702062990 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The agreement between the Malaysian Government and outlawed Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] to end communist insurgency in the country should not be questioned as it will bring benefit in the long run. Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen has expressed regret over the criticism by a small group

against the move. He said the government had studied the implications carefully before signing the agreement. The people should be happy that the CPM wanted to end its armed struggle because this would reduce government expenditure. The money used to fight the communist terrorists could now be channeled through development, especially in border areas and villages.

Singapore

New Drug Laws Mandate More Death Penalties

*BK0902153890 Singapore Domestic Service
in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89*

[Text] Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act incorporating the death penalties for drugs other than heroin will come into effect from next Thursday [15 February].

The tougher laws, which uphold the death penalty for those convicted of trafficking in more than half an ounce of opium, cannabis, cocaine, and hashish, were passed in Parliament last November.

The Central Narcotics Bureau says those found guilty of trafficking in or possessing 1,200 grams of opium, 500 grams of cannabis, 30 grams of cocaine, or 200 grams of hashish will be sentenced to death. At present, the death penalty only applies to those found guilty of trafficking in 15 grams of [word indistinct] heroin.

The bureau's director, Mr. Poh Geok Ek, told reporters that the amendments to the Drugs Act are (?aimed) at stopping the spread of cocaine, opium, and hashish. It is also to deter international syndicates from using Singapore as a transit center. Compared with last year, he said, the drugs problem had lessened slightly but it has still not been removed.

Cambodia

Reporter Summarizes Tour, Peoples' Comments

First Installment

*BK0802040390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
6 Feb 90 p 4*

[First of a three-part series by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" and entitled "Saving the 'Rotten Soul'"]

[Text] Phnom Penh—As we sit in a new floating restaurant in front of the former Royal Palace, drinking "ice cream soda" smuggled in from Singapore, an old Cambodian friend tells why he is so pessimistic about the future of his country.

"In the Khmer society, no one is more respected than teachers and professors. Teachers have played a crucial role in modern Cambodia. They have always been critical of the government. In 1974, when teachers started

taking bribes from rich families, we knew Cambodia was finished. The soul of my country had rotted."

Today, he explains, teachers once again are beginning to throw away degrees, for a price. "So, I am afraid, it will be like in 1975, like in the Lon Nol days. We will fail and the Khmer Rouge will come back to power."

Not everybody shares the absolute pessimism of my friend. But many are worried—extremely worried—by what they see: corruption, inflation, social disorder, and the sounds of war.

Former prime minister In Tam, who returned to Cambodia last year but has refused to occupy any official function, watches the evolution of Cambodia from a privileged position. "I have explained to the present leaders why, in 1975, I lost the war to their faction," he says. The reasons are simple, he insists: civilian and military corruption.

"The most dangerous enemy of the present Cambodia regime is not the resistance. The danger is here, among us," says the former governor of Takeo, who is writing a book about his country. "We know the illness, but we don't seem to be able to find a cure."

Like most people, he fears the return of the Khmer Rouge. He just read a transcript of the various "confessions" made at the Tuol Sleng detention centre by Hou Nim, one of the brightest original Khmer Rouge, purged in 1977 by the Pol Pot faction. "It is chilling. There is no respect for anything," says In Tam. But he does not believe the country would be much better off in the unlikely occurrence that the non-communist resistance wins the war. "I am afraid it will be the same chaos. Military people will take over. The military fight the war for their own benefit. They will not welcome the better trained Cambodians from Paris, California or elsewhere."

While the majority of Cambodians are struggling to ensure their daily subsistence, merchants, businessmen, some party and state officials are getting rich and displaying their newly acquired wealth.

Although a 9 p.m. curfew has been restored in Phnom Penh, restaurants and discos are still doing brisk business. "Discos are very popular," one Phnom Penh resident explains. Military personnel coming in for a good time have to leave their weapons outside. "We had a few incidents, when jealous officers started shooting at each other," complains the lady of a small grocery shop opposite a favourite entertainment spot.

The spectacle of army commanders waltzing the war away with young "taxi girls" in heavy make-up does little to improve the population's morale. "Is this the way to fight a war?" says a restaurant waiter as he is putting cases of imported beer and a few bottles of Hennessy cognac into a military car.

For the average Cambodian, life indeed is hard. Inflation is running high, salaries are so unrealistic they are

considered a sad joke. Medium-level cadres working in the capital earn about 1,000 riel a month. At the present street rate, it means little more than three dollars, or 75 baht.

"The minimum needed for a three-person family is 10,000 riel," says a cadre from the Foreign Ministry. Since the liberalisation of the Constitution at the end of April last year, officials have been told to find their own way to make a living. The regime blames the poor conditions of its servants on the war, on the Khmer Rouge, on those who support the Khmer Rouge. "This is partly true," remarks a civil servant. "But it seems that socialist regimes always underpay their cadres."

While many officials explain the widespread corruption by the need to make a living by any possible means, the average Cambodian takes a less indulgent view of the behaviour of too many high-ranking personalities. "What matters in Cambodia today is money, connections and women," a bitter official explains. "Money is all powerful, the most desirable commodity. To make good money, to have a good job, to escape conscription you need connections. And junior cadres and businessmen are increasingly expected to provide girls to those from which they need favours."

Mr Pun Peng Chen, a former high-ranking Sihanoukist official who has been a minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office since July 1989, admits that corruption does exist. "And we must do something about it," he says. "I have already proposed several ways to help reduce abuses." To counter what some observers have termed a "visa racket" by Cambodian officials in some embassies and consulates abroad, the minister proposes that tourists be granted a visa upon arrival at Pochentong Airport.

"I recently mentioned the corruption issue to President Heng Samrin," explains Pun Peng Chen, who himself donates his salary to the handicapped. "We have said nothing for ten years because many cadres were not well trained. Now the time has come to act," he says.

The population appears sceptical about the capacity of the regime to reform itself. Many see corruption as an organic problem of Cambodia, and share In Tam's view that it endangers the present regime, as it did the previous ones. "Even the Khmer Rouge had their form of corruption," said a survivor of one of Democratic Kampuchea's death camps. "Many low-ranking cadres could be bought for a watch, or a bit of gold. And the top Khmer Rouge leadership certainly lived very well while the rest of the nation was starving."

Like many of his compatriots, our interlocutor has little faith in the future of his country. "Only the United Nations can save us," he says.

"When will the United Nations come to save us?" was a question I heard dozens of times—both in Phnom Penh and in the provinces.

Most Cambodians we talked to, even officials speaking off the record, say they don't care much who rules the country, as long as there is peace and freedom. A number of Cambodians mentioned the name of Prince Sihanouk. "We have lost confidence in politicians, but we still believe the Prince should be here with us, as the symbol of our nation," a young intellectual told us.

When dozens of young Khmer studying in Eastern Europe fled to the West last November as the Berlin Wall collapsed, 49 of them wrote a letter of support to Prince Sihanouk. "Sihanouk and the United Nations," replied a young woman in Phnom Penh when I asked her what she wanted for her country. But, she added, "My parents believe the Prince should come back without the 'entourage'...."

Second Installment

BK0802043790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
7 Feb 90 p 5

[Second of a three-part series by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" and entitled "They Shot Me in the Dark..."]

[Text] Kompong Cham—What a lovely city. Kompong Cham, spread along the river, with clusters of turn-of-the-century shophouses that bring memories of a long-gone Cambodia, with broad avenues and gracious palms, elegant villas and a slow pace of life. These were also the days of colonial rule, and I doubt the workers of the many rubber plantations of the province feel much nostalgia for those bygone days. The colonial masters have come and gone. The villas are now occupied by the party's officers or high-ranking cadres.

"When we arrived here in January 1979 after the liberation of the city, there was poverty and sorrow everywhere," says Mr Sam Oeur, deputy president of the local People's Committee. We are sitting in one of the salons of the mansion which today houses the Committee. Other officials sit around, silent, taking notes like well-groomed schoolchildren. Cans of tepid soft-drink are served. Somebody offers the ever-present "555" cigarettes.

"Today the situation has improved a lot. More than 70 percent of the houses are in good shape, many with radio, TV, or even refrigerator." True, Kompong Cham is a prosperous province, one of the richest in the country. There is rubber, rice, soya, fish and fruit. The population of the province is over 1.3 million. In the city and in some of the nearby districts, we see new houses, pleasant wooden constructions that testify to the new prosperity of the region.

"People are very happy now," insists Mr Sam Oeur. "Since last year, with the changes in the Constitution, they can own land and property."

Like anywhere else in the country, prices are up. Rooms at the city hotel have gone up from US\$8 to US\$13 since my last visit in April 1989. The big difference is that for five extra dollars you get less electricity. "Indeed, we

used to have electricity 24 hours a day," says one of the local cadres, "but now we have some restrictions." Electricity is available from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. only. The old Soviet generator, a monstrously noisy machine, consumes too much petrol. "And the time has come to save for the war effort," says another official. Curfew is at 8 p.m. and only party officials enjoy all-night electricity from a special, smaller generator.

Where is the war? As usual, "in small, remote villages," explains the army commander of the province. Wherever you go, the war is always somewhere else, far away. The Khmer Rouge? "Yes, there are a few hundred in the province, but they do not stay here, they are in transit," says Mr Pong Yen, an amiable former French teacher who is president of the Labour Union. Everybody knows that Skoun district is dangerous. There is a portion of Highway 6, between Skoun and the Mekong, which was once described as a death zone by a Cambodian friend.

Offensive Role

At Chup, one of the three major rubber plantations in the province, a special militia reinforces the provincial and the district armies. And don't forget the police. In the past few years the Cambodian police has assumed a growing para-military role. "We do preserve law and order," explains a member of my eight-men police escort. "But we also have an offensive role. We must combat the enemy in the province." Last year the enemy included several hundred Sihanoukist soldiers. "We don't have many Sihanoukists left here, and they hardly fight. Many have rallied to the regime. The main enemy remains the Pol Potists," says the commander.

During my visit to Chup, where, explains one of the directors, production has been disrupted by management problems, workers told me that a few days ago the Khmer Rouge had launched an attack "not far away." Soldiers on both sides were badly wounded.

Kompong Cham suffers from a water problem. But not as much as Kompong Speu, a less fortunate province southwest of Phnom Penh. "We have a serious shortage of water," complains Ms Sok Samnang, a member of the National Assembly who also heads the local commission for "Misled Persons" (of whom 127 rallied to the regime in Kompong Speu during 1989, mostly from the Khmer Rouge ranks). The last rainy season was shorter than usual. And the lack of water affects the rice crops.

The war, in Kompong Speu, is close by. "See these mountains, they are full of Khmer Rouge," explains a local policeman. The provincial hospital reflects the tragedy. Legs and arms blown away by land mines. Men and women with bullet wounds. "They shot me in the dark, as I walked back home," says a woman with a bullet wound in her chest. She has no idea who shot her. "Maybe it was a mistake. Maybe Khmer Rouge, maybe drunken soldiers," wonders a nurse.... And once in a while a young man shoots himself in the foot, to avoid going to war.

Recruiting young men for the army is getting more difficult. So many have been called already—conscription affects men from 18 to 35; others use connections and protection to keep civilian jobs. To join the police is seen as less dangerous than the army. The police certainly enjoys a slightly higher reputation as being better trained and better disciplined.

Discipline: another key word in Cambodia today. People complain frequently about soldiers threatening cars travelling on the main highway, of officers more involved in business than in war. "Indeed," admits Deputy Defence Minister Chay Sangyun. "We had a few undisciplined officers. And if too many of them are involved in business we cannot win. We had to re-educate a few, we have punished a few others." Soldiers receive around 1,500 riel a month, but at least three quarters of the sum is kept for food. The rest is barely sufficient to buy a few packs of cigarettes (cheapest ones cost at least 50 riel). One can understand the frustration of soldiers, often from poor families, watching brand new private cars speed along the highway they have to guard at great risk. Especially if it is true, as one of my Cambodian friends insists, that "no one in the country can today make enough honest money to buy a new car."

At the district of Phnum Sruoch, one of the hotspots of Kompong Speu, most officials are gone. "To inspect the defence work," explains a local soldier. Most officials in the province have been provided with weapons. "The Khmer Rouge are mostly dangerous at night," adds the soldier, watching half a dozen comrades-in-arms start their patrol along Highway 3. Even when the war does not directly invade people's lives, it disrupts everything. "We are grateful for the presence of Vietnamese soldiers because they keep the war away," said two ladies at Battambang's Central market. "Even so, we are still afraid." Afraid of the Khmer Rouge? Yes, but more than anything else, afraid of the physical dangers of war: bombs, shells, bullets....

One afternoon, going back from Kompong Speu to Phnom Penh, our car is stopped by a group of young soldiers. They are well-armed and look extremely unfriendly. They are drunk and nervous. Discovering that I am not Soviet, for some strange reason, seems to appease them. They stop aiming their guns at us. A few cigarettes go a long way to establish a friendlier climate.

Third Installment

BK0802051190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
8 Feb 90 p 5

[Third of a three-part series by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" and entitled "Still Looking to the Party"]

[Text] Battambang—The Daunteav Jute Factory is one of the main industrial establishments of Battambang. In 1983 it was attacked and partly destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. The factory has its own militia which trains once a week. In the reception room, illuminated portraits in

two dimensions—it looks like some weird pop art—of Heng Samrin, Ho Chi Minh, Karl Marx and Lenin surrounded by flashing lights. Something like a communist Christmas decor.

Mr Muy Chat, a member of the city and provincial party committee explains the situation in the province. No reason for panic, he says. Of course. Officials never seem to find reason for panic. I venture a question on the present role of the party. Has it changed in nature since important modifications were brought to the Constitution in 1989?

"No. Nothing has changed. The role of the party is the same." Mr Muy Chat is firm. And so were dozens of officials in other provinces and in Phnom Penh. The party is still called the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK), but I was told local committees are no longer called "Revolutionary" committees. Just People's committees. The eviction of the revolutionary reference seems to be the main ideological difference since last year.

In Kompong Speu, visiting one of the district offices, I am introduced to someone who works for the party committee. I raise my usual question regarding the party, its role and its ideology. The last point puzzles my interlocutor. "The ideology of the party?"

The man looks around, as if for help. "My boss is away, you will have to wait for his return. I am not sure what the ideology of the party is."

We settle down for a cup of bitter tea and enjoy the coolness of the late afternoon.

The PRPK is the heir of the Communist Party of Cambodia. A party, they said, that was "hijacked" by Pol Pot and his friends in 1979.

"Max Lenin," as one of my earlier contacts used to say, was in theory the official inspiration for the strictly Marxist-Leninist organisation. But few Cambodians, including those in the party, are much interested in ideological debate. Most of the substance comes from Hanoi.

"The Vietnamese Communist Party is deeply concerned with ideology," an Eastern European ambassador explains as we sip a bottle of wine in one of Phnom Penh's best and quietest restaurants. "But in Cambodia very few members of the party's top leadership care much about Marxism. It is really an imported ideology."

I remember an amazing speech given by Heng Samrin on May Day 1983. It was full of triumphant reference to the leading and illuminating role of the Cambodian Working Class. And that in a country where there was, practically, no working class at all! But why not, it was all part of the clichés needed to produce a good, solid "Marxist" speech.

The party produces a newspaper, *Pracheachon* (in Laos it is *Passason* and in Vietnam *Nhan Dan*: in all three cases

it means "The People"). But I wonder how many people read it. Obstinate Cambodia watchers, certainly, like myself. But the Cambodians?

"The role of the party has not changed." We are in Kompong Cham, at the provincial party office. "The party rules everything," echoes another official in the room. And back to what the party believes. "The party is concerned about life, about public health, about people's happiness." Nothing else?

"Well, once in a while we get a text from Phnom Penh. It informs us what we have to tell the people." Another party cadre told me that the party is about "prosperity." Private property is widely accepted, and in the countryside, the old Samaki (Solidarity) groups have been disbanded. Business in Phnom Penh and some of the most prosperous cities is brisk.

I found one man who was still firmly convinced the party was a truly Marxist-Leninist organisation. It was in Suon, one of Kompong Cham's main districts. Mr Chan Man is deputy president of the district People's committee. In 1970 he joined the "revolutionary army" (nobody talks about Khmer Rouge any more) and became a soldier in the Eastern Zone. Like many of his companions he rebelled against the Centre, against the Pol Pot faction. He was in Suon in January 1979 when the Vietnamese troops arrived and quite naturally joined the new Regime.

"Yes the party is still Marxist," he tells me firmly. "The party rules everything, in every field." Mr Chan Man is the only person I have met in two weeks of travelling who tells me he is a Marxist. It is a rare opportunity.

I ask him a few more questions concerning the party. "Yes, we still need political education." Mr Chan Man takes another cigarette. "The people fully trust the party." What about events in Eastern Europe? "I don't know," he says. "We have not yet received instructions from Phnom Penh regarding this subject."

Most people I have met during my most recent travels in Cambodia have little hope in the future. The Party is something remote, another organisation that seems to benefit its members. In the provinces the party rules. Indeed, that much is clear. To a large extent the party appears as a self-perpetuating organisation. The Party exists because the party exists. "Some people can be Marxists, other not," Deputy Defence Minister Chay Sangyun once told me. "We do not care. What the party must do is prevent the return of the genocidal regime, and protect people's lives."

Exhaustion is probably the word that best describes the Cambodian people's present situation. Mental, physical exhaustion. The Khmer suffers from deep exhaustion. Since the early Seventies they have experienced the worst forms of abuse. The present regime is certainly a tremendous improvement on the drastic, cruel, paranoid and "adventurist" Khmer Rouge.

But because of corruption, inflation, poverty, war, neglect and years of political rigidity it is doubtful the present regime enjoys much spontaneous support. In fact I doubt any faction can claim much spontaneous militant support. Exhaustion was also the word used by a colleague of mine who recently spent some time in zones occupied by the Resistance, to describe people's state of mind.

People I speak to privately in Battambang say that in general they are happy Vietnamese troops are back to protect the city. At least, they say, it keeps the war away. Not the Khmer Rouge, not communism or liberalism, but the war. Bombs, shells, bullets.

Hun Sen Remarks on Conflict Settlement Reported

*BK1002053790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 10—Chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers Hun Sen said here Thursday that it is right time for a settlement of the 11-year Cambodian conflict since all parties concerned have in the main agreed on a UN role in the process.

However, in an interview with AFP, he rejected a Khmer Rouge proposal that the five permanent UN Security Council members be included in informal talks on Cambodia set for February 26-28 in Jakarta.

The Cambodian situation is "ripe for a solution," he affirmed, because all countries involved "have more or less agreed on an interim UN administratitn in Cambodia until general elections are held and will be the focuss of the Jakarta talks. [quotation marks as received]

Mr. Hun Sen said that the attendance of France and Australia at Jakarta was necessary since "we are going to discuss their proposals."

He said that he was ready to accept an expansion of the talks to include the chairmen of the three commissions set up during August talks on Cambodia in Paris.

The three commissions are led by Canada and India, in charge of a ceasefire and an international control mechanism; Laos and Malaysia responsible for guaranteeing the sovereignty and neutrality of Cambodia; and Australia and Japan, charged with refugees and Cambodian reconstruction.

"Our flexibility at Jakarta will rest mainly on the UN role and on its importance," Mr. Hun Sen said, adding that the talks will center on the mandate and duties of the United Nations.

He said the United Nations would take part in supervising a ceasefire, Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia, and a halt of foreign aid to warring factions as well as organizing and supervising general elections.

But Mr. Hun Sen said he did not feel that UN peace-keeping forces were necessary in Cambodia.

"I think the United Nations is coming to resolve a political problem, not war. Armed peacekeeping forces are not necessary." But Mr. Hun Sen added: "The United Nations can send men equipped with light weapons."

Mr. Hun Sen said an accord on ceasefire and a halt to foreign aid was not likely at Jakarta. "The other side is not disposed to that," he said, adding however that Phnom Penh wants a quick resolution of these questions "to avoid fighting."

Speaking on the military situation in Cambodia, Mr. Hun Sen said that it was not as "grave" as it was in late September after Vietnam's final withdrawal.

He did not however rule out attacks by the opposition group before the meeting in Jakarta. If such attacks occur, Mr. Hun Sen said, we will retaliate.

He also reiterated his opposition to the three-party coalition's representation at the United Nations.

"We do not recognize any legitimacy of Khmer Rouge, but we recognize that there are two governments" and the composition of opposition government concerns only that group, he said.

The Khmer Rouge are blamed for the deaths of millions of Cambodian civilians during their nearly four-year fanatical rule from 1975 to January 1979 when they were ousted by the Cambodian Revolutionary Armed Forces with the assistance of the Vietnamese Army volunteers.

The Cambodian leader also said that he had seen "no progress in the position of China," the main backer of the Khmer Rouge, even if Beijing accepted a communique adopted by the UN Security Council members during their meeting in Paris in January which called for an enhanced UN role in Cambodia.

As for the relations with Soviet Union, a key ally of the Phnom Penh government, Hun Sen said there were no "signs of change," even if the Soviet Union is experiencing internal difficulties.

"The Soviet Union will continue to support us and play even more active role in a solution in Cambodia," he said.

Sihanouk Issues Statement on Singapore Visit

*BK1102070090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT
11 Feb 90*

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 11 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has cancelled planned meetings with supporters of his movement in Singapore later this month, he said in a statement issued here Sunday.

But the prince, Cambodia's former monarch, said he would pay a two-day visit to Singapore starting February 20 for "political discussions" with government officials.

The prince said in his statement that he could not hold a congress of his resistance movement, FUNCINPEC (the French acronym for National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia), February 17-18 as he had planned for lack of hotel rooms.

He said he would instead hold private meetings with his Cambodian supporters in the Thai seaside resort of Phatthaya, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of here, where he is currently staying on a "private" visit to Thailand.

Singapore ranks among the strongest supporters of a guerrilla coalition joining the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge with non-communist factions headed by Prince Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann to fight forces of the Hanoi-installed Cambodian Government.

After his visit to Singapore, the prince will return to Thailand before going to a guerrilla-controlled area in Cambodia "to live there starting end of February," he said in his statement.

Sends Message to Khieu Samphan

BK1102080990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 11 Feb 90

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 11 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Sunday he had warned his ally the Khmer Rouge against encouraging further rapprochement between Thailand and the Phnom Penh government.

Prince Sihanouk, in a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said he had told the Khmer Rouge after its refusal to attend forthcoming peace talks in Jakarta that Phnom Penh "would benefit from even stronger friendship from Thailand."

Thailand has supported the uneasy guerrilla coalition joining the Khmer Rouge, which was toppled from power in Cambodia 11 years ago by a Vietnamese invasion, with forces of the prince and former Premier Son Sann.

But Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who has engaged in a policy of rapprochement with the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government, had three series of meetings here last year with his Cambodian counterpart, Hun Sen.

Thailand has allowed Chinese military assistance to be channelled through its territory where the Khmer Rouge and its anti-Phnom Penh partners enjoy "sanctuaries" from which they infiltrate weapons and men into Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk said in his statement that he had sent an "urgent message" to Khmer Rouge titular leader Khieu Samphan stressing that "Thailand's friendship is vital for the our national Cambodian resistance."

The 68-year-old former Cambodian monarch said he had written Mr. Khieu Samphan at the request of Mr. Chatchai, who had asked him at a private dinner here Friday [9 February] to "persuade" the Khmer Rouge to send a delegation to Jakarta.

The Khmer Rouge, which is accused of acts of genocide during its fanatical Marxist rule over Cambodia between 1975 and 1979, is refusing to attend the February 26-28 talks in Jakarta where the warring Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, non-communist Southeast Asia, Australia and France have been invited.

Non-communist Cambodian guerrilla sources have said that the Khmer Rouge is fearful that Vietnam will maneuver at the Jakarta meeting to score diplomatic points.

The faction had demanded that all five permanent U.N. Security Council members—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—attend the meeting in the Indonesian capital, believing this would reduce chances of the parley putting a stamp of approval on Vietnam's announced troop pullout from Cambodia last September, the Cambodian sources said.

The U.N. has not endorsed the military withdrawal, which the Khmer Rouge and its allies have disputed.

The Cambodian sources said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had not agreed to the Khmer Rouge demand. In an interview earlier this month with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Phnom Penh, Mr. Hun Sen also rejected it.

Prince Sihanouk, in his statement, said that without the presence of the Khmer Rouge the Jakarta meeting would prove "useless."

He said the Khmer Rouge wanted an international meeting on Cambodia to be held in Paris rather than Jakarta, with an agenda based on the final statement of a Paris conference on Cambodia last August and the U.N. resolution on Cambodia last November rather than on an Australian peace plan.

A final statement adopted at the closing of the stalemated Paris conference said the meeting had to be "suspended" as it was "not yet possible to achieve a comprehensive settlement."

The conference broke down as the Cambodian factions failed to reach a compromise over power-sharing, with Phnom Penh rejecting a guerrilla coalition demand that Khmer Rouge representatives be included in an interim government.

The U.N. resolution in November refrained from formal recognition of Vietnam's military withdrawal.

To break the stalemate in peace efforts, Australia has launched a peace plan calling for a U.N. interim administration in Cambodia to pave the way for elections.

Such a formula would leave the Khmer Rouge out of government, as demanded by Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk said that he hoped that the Khmer Rouge would agree "in the end" to send a delegation to Jakarta.

"I have told Khieu Samphan that if such were not to be the case, the Hun Sen regime, taking advantage of a deterioration in friendly relations between Thailand and the Cambodian national resistance, would benefit from even stronger friendship from Thailand," the prince said.

Prince Sihanouk, who is currently on a "private" visit to Thailand at the seaside resort of Phatthaya, was to meet there Sunday with Chinese Ambassador to Bangkok Zhang Dewei [as received], Thai sources said.

In a separate statement, he announced he had cancelled planned meetings with supporters of his resistance movement in Singapore scheduled for February 17-18. He said he would instead hold private meetings with his supporters in Phatthaya, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of here.

But he said he would pay a two-day visit to Singapore starting February 20 for "political discussions" with government officials. Singapore ranks among the strongest supporters of the guerrilla coalition.

After his visit to Singapore, the prince will return to Thailand before going to a guerrilla-controlled area in Cambodia "to live there starting end of February," he said.

Peace Efforts Said To Hit New Stalemate

BK1002123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 10 (AFP)—Efforts to reach a settlement in Cambodia have reached a new stalemate with the Khmer Rouge's refusal to attend forthcoming peace talks in Jakarta, Cambodian and Thai sources said here Saturday.

Cambodia's former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk has written to his Khmer Rouge allies in a last-ditch attempt to convince them to attend the Jakarta talks on February 26-28, but sources familiar with the negotiations said the prince's latest move was unlikely to succeed.

The absence of the Khmer Rouge, the strongest military faction in an anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition, would render the talks insignificant and result in a setback to efforts to arrive at a settlement to end the war in Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk, currently on a private visit to Thailand, wrote to the Khmer Rouge's titular head Khieu Samphan Friday [9 February] after a meeting with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The sources said he wrote in the letter that relations between Thailand and the Khmer Rouge could not be "maintained at the same level" if they did not take part in the Jakarta meetings.

This appeared to reflect a possible threat from Thailand, which has assisted the Khmer Rouge and its allies in their fight against the Phnom Penh forces.

Thailand has supported the coalition, allowing Chinese military assistance to be channelled through its territory where the guerrillas enjoy "sanctuaries" from which they infiltrate men and weapons into Cambodia.

But the sources said the Khmer Rouge, ousted from power in Cambodia 11 years ago when Vietnam invaded the country and installed a client government in Phnom Penh, was fearful that Hanoi would score diplomatic points in Jakarta.

The warring Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, non-communist Southeast Asian countries and France have been invited to the Jakarta talks.

But at a meeting here Saturday of Khmer Rouge representatives and their non-communist allies headed by Prince Sihanouk and former conservative Prime Minister Son Sann, the Marxist group restated a demand that all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council take part.

The "big five" are Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Khmer Rouge, which sent a letter to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas demanding the participation of the five permanent Security Council members, has received a negative response from him, Cambodian sources said.

The Khmer Rouge wants the five to attend, believing this would reduce the chances of the parley putting a stamp of approval on Vietnam's announced troop withdrawal from Cambodia at the end of September, the Cambodian sources said.

The U.N. has not endorsed the military pullout, which the resistance coalition has disputed.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed for acts of genocide during their fanatical rule over Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, also says the forthcoming Jakarta talks are bound to end in failure, and believes Hanoi would attempt to put the blame on the faction if it took part, the sources added.

France is the only permanent Security Council member due to attend the Jakarta talks which are being held under the auspices of last August's failed International Conference on Cambodia in Paris.

The Paris conference, co-chaired by France and Indonesia, collapsed when the Cambodian factions proved unable to compromise on a power-sharing arrangement, with Phnom

Penh opposing the participation of Khmer Rouge representatives in a future Cambodian government.

At their Saturday meeting here, the Khmer Rouge and its resistance allies also discussed Australia's peace plan for Cambodia which calls for the formation of an interim U.N. administration to rule the country until elections are held, the Cambodian sources said.

The three factions agreed to stick to their own proposal combining a U.N. role to verify Vietnam's pullout and monitor elections with a government composed of representatives of all warring Cambodian groups, they said.

The coalition proposal also calls for the simultaneous dismantling of the Cambodian Government.

The guerrilla factions agreed that the Australian plan could only work if the Phnom Penh government were initially dismantled, the sources said.

Son Sann Reportedly To Attend Jakarta Meeting

BK1102084090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, has decided to attend the meeting to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the end of February to discuss the settlement of the Cambodian problem.

In a confirmation made to the Voice of the Khmer [VOK] yesterday, Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF, said that his excellency will personally attend this meeting.

Earlier, in an interview given to the VOK on Friday evening, His Excellency Son Sann also confirmed that the KPNLF would certainly attend the Jakarta meeting at the end of February. He also expressed the hope that the other groups would attend this meeting in order to settle the Cambodian problem because this was their duty.

His Excellency Son Sann said that this meeting is not called JIM-1 or JIM-2 [Jakarta informal meeting 1 or 2] as before and that in addition to the Cambodian groups, the six ASEAN countries, Laos, France, and maybe Australia will be attending this meeting.

His Excellency said that the formula regarding the United Nations' temporary supervision will be discussed and that after that another meeting will be held in Paris, France.

In the same interview, His Excellency Son Sann voiced his support for the change of the names of the country and government, national flag, and national anthem from the current official name of the Coalition Government of Cambodia to that proposed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

His Excellency Son Sann said that currently at the United Nations, the Cambodian country is called Cambodia, our government is called the National Government of Cambodia, the national flag is the one used before 1970, and the national anthem is the former "Prasat Sila" song.

His Excellency Son Sann also expressed his satisfaction over the resolutions on Cambodia adopted by the U.S. Congress and the five UN Security Council member countries.

His Excellency Son Sann is currently staying in Bangkok, Thailand, after attending the summit meeting of former presidents and heads of government in Seoul, South Korea.

Enemy Position in Kompong Speu Said Attacked

BK1202040490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] On 1 February, our Cambodian national resistance forces attacked and destroyed a battalion position of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets at Phnum Tralach in Kong Pisei District on southwest Phnom Penh battlefield [Kompong Speu Province]. We killed eight enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded 15 others; destroyed 15 AK's, B-40's, and B-41's; and seized a 12.7-mm gun, three B-40's, 29 AK's, 16 SK rifles, three B-41's, five SK rifles, three RPD's, three light machine guns, and a quantity of ammunition and various war materiel.

We liberated 12 villages—Trapeang Veng, Dambok Khpos, Trapeang Leap, Chheu Teap, Pong Ta Mom, Trapeang Skea, O, Phlov Lek, Chambak, Trapeang Andong, Tumnop, and Thkov—and freed 87 village officials and 17 Cambodian soldiers.

Villages 'Liberated' in Kompong Thom Province

BK1202035690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] On 7 February, our Cambodian national resistance forces attacked Kompong Thmar township [Kompong Thom Province] and dismantled administrative networks of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets in four communes: Kompong Thmar, Balang, Krayea, and Boeng Lvea in Santuk and Baray Districts.

We killed four Vietnamese enemy soldiers, wounded a number of others, and seized 10 AK's, four SK rifles, and a quantity of various types of ammunition. We liberated 23 villages—Kompong Thmar, Snao, Khek, Thnal, Khley, Kang Say, Chheuteal, Tuol Sangke, Thon Moun, and L'ak in Kompong Thmar commune; Boeng, Tren, Tbeng, Sangkruos, Trapeang Prey, Trapeang Phdau, and Trapeang Ton in Boeng Lvea commune; and Krayea Tuol, Krayea, Dang Kda, Trapeang Pring, Ta Minh, and Tuok in Krayea commune—and freed 60 village officials and 80 Cambodian soldiers.

Truckloads of SRV Troops Said Sent to Kratie

BK1202030090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] According to reports from east Kompong Cham battlefield, in early February the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors brought six truckloads—about 180 soldiers—of fresh Vietnamese troops from Vietnam to Cambodia along National Route (?13). Three truckloads were left in (?Prek Prasap District) and another three truckloads in Sambo District seat in Kratie Province. These Vietnamese troops wear puppet soldiers' uniforms as a disguise.

'Genuine' SRV Troops Claimed in Battambang

BK1202022090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Between 5 and 10 February, the Hanoi Vietnamese have daily brought genuine Vietnamese troops from Phnom Penh to Battambang on Antonov-24 planes.

By 10 February, nearly 1,000 Vietnamese troops had arrived in Battambang town to oppose the Cambodian resistance forces along Route 10 between Kamping Puoy and Battambang and along the railway line and National Route 5, south of Battambang.

Laos**Reportage on Supreme People's Assembly Session****Nouhak Phoumsavan Presides**

BK1002101190 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 10 (KPL)—The 3rd annual plenary session of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA] was held here yesterday, under the presidency of its president, Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

The session is to discuss and endorse the 1990 socioeconomic development plan and budget as determined by the 9th plenary session of the party Central Committee.

Attending the session were Politburo members and secretariat of the party Central Committee, vice-president, standing members and members of the PSA, ministers and deputy ministers.

The diplomatic corps to Laos were also invited to attend.

In his inaugural speech, Nouhak Phoumsavan said 1990 is the year the entire people should be very determined to advance the country comprehensively a step further. He also noted that 1990, the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan, is eventful and is the first year for the PSA to

have joined in discussion to pass the annual socioeconomic plan and budget of the state, which is a task aimed at the effective implementation of the party restructuring policy.

Following the PSA president's speech was an address by party General Secretary and Chairman of the Council of Ministers [CM] Kaysone Phomvihane. In his address the CM chairman stressed on some important points involving the strengthening of patriotism and national concord, the firm support for the cause of restructuring, the promotion of democracy, and the creation of unanimity at a high degree. In addition, he emphasized the close combination of both national and epochal strength, making relations and cooperation with foreign countries more effective, the alliance between the fraternal countries in the region firmer than ever in the interest of each country and of the whole community in the region. Here, he said that having many friends and lessening enemies are an important requirement in the restructuring task.

In his turn, Sali Vongkhamso, Politburo member, vice-chairman of the CM, minister of economy, planning and finance, made a report on the implemented 1989 socioeconomic plan and budget and on the 1990 plan and budget. He spoke of significant achievements in all areas, especially in economy, revealing that the revenue of the last year budget surpassed by 14 percent. This meant a 128-billion kip income in total against a 123-billion kip spending, showing a 9 percent surplus.

According to the 1990 plan, the minister reported, the focus is placed on comprehensive development of agriculture, livestock and forestry to meet the food demand and the export. The arrangement project of fixed engagement for minority people is continued. Rice output alone is estimated at 1.8 million tons. In industry, measures to raise the productivity of factories are adopted. The repair of Roads 13 and 8 is furthered while building roads accessible to rural and mountain areas. An amount of fund is allocated for the setting up of economic-technical groups in tribal areas of the west border and in strategic areas.

In trade, wholesale links and import-export are expanded and trade network be developed to rural and mountain regions. Also to be continued is acquiring and using international aid into the socio-cultural infrastructure development. More attention goes to raising the quality of education, public health, culture and information. Next is the care of the livelihood of disabled people, families of those having sacrificed their lives for the national cause, families of the Army and police rank-and-file and retired personnel.

As to the 1990 budget, the figure is targeted at 153.6 billion kip, a 19-percent increase over 1989. This figure provides that the domestic revenue is to increase by 70 percent. The whole estimated spending is 153.6 billion kip, a 25-per cent increase over 1989. [figures as received] The spending will be focused on payment of

previous salary figure, remuneration, bonus, pension and other allowances as stipulated by the state.

The 3rd session of the People's Supreme Assembly will last for 3 days.

Nouhak Gives Address

*BK1202101990 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT
12 Feb 90*

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 12 (KPL)—The 3d session of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA] ended yesterday after three days of sittings here, under the chairmanship of its president Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee].

In his closing address, the PSA president described this year plan [as] tremendously significant since it will deal with the setbacks in the past 4 years—thus ensuring success for the coming Third Five-Year state plan. He also said the submission of the 1990 draft plan for socioeconomic development and budget of the state to the PSA for consideration was a new task it has assumed at the first step of the political system of restructuring. Agreeing to both the tasks, orientations, objectives and measures prescribed in the 9th resolution of the party CC [Central Committee] and the 1990 socioeconomic development plan and budget, the PSA president said we should try hard to create new approaches limiting weaknesses, errors in order to advance ahead.

The PSA president stressed on the frank comments the people's deputies made in conformity with the PSA's role on the serious errors committed by different institutions and localities in the macro-management of state. These involve, for instance, the disproportionate development of economic infrastructure among services and localities, the lack of attention paid to transport and communication development despite being the spearhead and to other areas like education, public health and culture, thus giving room for foreign decadent culture to recover in some towns.

To fulfill the 1990 plan and budget and to do away with backwardness in economy gradually, the PSA president said, it requires that more attention be paid to organizing the implementation of all the party and state resolutions and orders and that the plan must be translated into concrete programs and projects, to be executed by all sectors and services.

At the end, the PSA president noted that recognizing its role and responsibility, the PSA together with the people's councils at all local levels must monitor the implementation of the state's plan and budget in all services and localities.

Additional Guests Listed

*BK1102131990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 11 Feb 90*

[Text] After a three-day session under the chairmanship of Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, the third plenum of the second Supreme People's Assembly for 1990 concluded successfully in Vientiane this afternoon.

Attending the closing ceremony as honored guests were Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, acting president of the republic, and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee; other party and state leaders; and foreign diplomats accredited to Laos.

DPRK Foreign Ministry Delegation Pays Visit

Foreign Minister Greets Group

*BK0902135490 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 9 (KPL)—A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK led by its deputy minister Cha Pong-chu has arrived here on a one-week goodwill visit to Laos at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

Here the delegation is meeting with its counterpart of the Lao Foreign Ministry to discuss the further promotion of the relations between the two countries. Also to be touched upon are both internal situation in their respective countries and international situation. The delegation, in addition, will meet several Lao leaders and important figures.

Welcoming the delegation at the airport were Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Soulivong Phasitthidet, DPRK's ambassador to Laos Chang Yong-chun, and some other Lao officials.

Delegations Exchange Views

*BK1002094590 Vientiane KPL in English 0851 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 10 (KPL)—A meeting was held here on Feb 9 between the delegations of the Foreign Ministries of the DPRK and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Lao delegation was led by Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and the Korean delegation was led by Cha Pong-chu, deputy minister for foreign affairs of the DPRK.

During the talks, the two sides discussed their internal affairs and the international situation. They agreed that the relationship between the governments and peoples of

the two countries has developed, and agreed to further widen and promote it in the interest of the peoples of both countries.

U.S. Funds Road Construction Project in North
BK0802110390 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 8 (OANA-KPL)—A 61-km road linking Meuang Hiam and Meuang Son in northern Houa Phan Province has been under construction since last October. The project is funded by the U.S. Anti-Narcotics Committee.

This 6-meter-wide stretch of road is expected to cost 1.5 million US dollars and completed by the end of 1991. To date, the construction undertaken by a road construction company under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is 10 percent fulfilled.

This work is aimed at facilitating the construction of hydropower station and irrigation network in the area.

Philippines

Aquino Refuses To Meet U.S. Defense Secretary

No 'Need' To Meet With Cheney

BK1102141290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Manila, Feb 11 (AFP)—Talks on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines will focus on Washington's failure to deliver pledged compensation for the facilities, President Corazon Aquino said Sunday [11 February].

Mrs. Aquino also said she "does not need" to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney during his visit here next week, saying she had been misquoted by U.S. officials who had called on her earlier.

"The topic of the exploratory talks will be the non-fulfillment of the commitments of the Americans under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement" in 1988 detailing compensation for the bases for 1990 and 1991, she said.

"We want America to explain why they failed to meet or reduced what is due us, what we describe as rent but what they say is assistance," she said over government-run radio.

"What we want to find out in the exploratory talks is what about it? We are waiting for them to explain to us why this has happened."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has said he expected the U.S. Congress to cut 96 million dollars from a 360 million-dollar military and economic aid package pledged by Washington for 1990 as compensation for the bases. He said Sunday that Washington and Manila should be able to start the "exploratory talks" on

Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest U.S. military bases overseas, by "the end of March or the beginning of April" at the earliest.

The current executive agreement on Clark and Subic runs out on September 16, 1991, when the Philippine Constitution would only permit foreign bases covered by a treaty. Washington was expected to seek continued access to the bases.

The talks were to have started here in December, but they were postponed by a bloody coup attempt which Mrs. Aquino put down with the aid of U.S. air cover.

Mr. Manglapus said that under the "best efforts" pledge contained in an agreement covering compensation for the bases for 1990 and 1991 which he signed with then-U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in October 1988, "theoretically they have all those two years to deliver all of those figures mentioned."

However, he said he saw no possibility that Washington would be able to comply with a provision requiring U.S. forces in the Pacific to purchase 30 million dollars' worth of supplies from the Philippines this year.

Mrs. Aquino said Mr. Cheney would have to consult with his Philippine counterpart, Fidel Ramos, because in past meetings with official U.S. visitors here, what appeared in U.S. newspapers reporting on the meetings were "different" from what was actually discussed.

Her immediate past official U.S. visitors were Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates and Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe of Wisconsin.

"On account of our sad experience of the last two visits, I think it is best that it be Secretary Ramos who will meet with his counterpart and does not need me at the moment," she said.

Cheney Comments on Announcement

HK1202020790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] President Aquino announced that she will not meet with Cheney when he arrives today [as heard] from a whirlwind working tour of South Korea and Hong Kong. Richard Cheney said he does not take personally President Corazon Aquino's decision not to meet him. Cheney and Secretary Ramos will hold talks on security issues including the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Station, two of the biggest U.S. military bases. American spokesman Pete Williams said Cheney does not take it personally.

Aquino Claims 'Inaccurate' Reports

HK1202113990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] President Aquino today assured the people that she will always bear in mind the national interest as the primary guide in dealing with the issue concerning the

fate of the U.S. military facilities in the country. This report from Tanny Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] In a weekly press conference, the president said: This principle will not only apply in dealing with the U.S. Government, but also with other foreign governments.

Meanwhile, the president clarified that her refusal to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney who is scheduled to arrive in Manila this week, has nothing to do with Secretary Cheney personally. The president said that in view with her very recent experiences with the last two American officials who visited Manila, she believed that she was a victim of inaccurate reporting, not from the Philippine press, but from the American press. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today confirmed that the government is ready to hold exploratory talks with an American panel to discuss the fate of U.S. military installations in the country. Manglapus said that during the talks, the national interest is the highest priority in terms of military, economic and political benefits.

The foreign affairs secretary stressed that the talks are crucial since this is the best way, he said, to determine whether there is still a need for negotiations for a new treaty or the abrogation of the U.S. bases agreement after 1991.

Aquino Clarifies Decision

HK1202100790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[News conference held by President Corazon C. Aquino with unidentified reporters at Malacanang Palace in Manila; date not given—recorded in English]

[Text] [Reporter] Is it going to be a policy for the government not to meet the other side—visiting American officials should only be met by their counterparts—or will this decision only hold until the bases issue is resolved?

[Aquino] Well, first of all, let me clarify here that this is nothing to do with Secretary Cheney personally, because I did have the opportunity to meet with him when I made my state visit to the United States in November. However, in view of my very recent experiences with the last two American officials who visited here, I believe I was the victim of inaccurate reporting, not from the Philippine press, but from the American press. I believe it is best at this time to just instruct Secretary Ramos on whatever there is to say to Secretary Cheney.

[Reporter] Good afternoon. General Montano has reported that the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] has been infiltrated by rebel soldiers or rebel leaders since the PMA administration has been rather lax. According to him, this reflects the recruitment of PMA cadets by some rebel officers. What do you intend to do

about this? Do you intend to raise the issue when you attend the graduation rites at the PMA this weekend?

[Aquino] Perhaps, General Montano is referring to the time when Red Kapunan was at the PMA. But now with the superintendent, General Arturo Enrile, I believe that there has been remarkable improvement. And judging from the interaction between the PMA cadets and the Metro Manila students, I think a lot of improvements have been made. And as you have seen, in the December coup attempt, none of the PMA cadets were involved in the sense that they did not side with the military rebels but remained true to the Constitution.

[Reporter] Ma'am, do you have any government tactics, especially with the decision of the Soviet Communist Party to have a multiparty system. For your part, will you work toward greater political pluralism in the country, especially for the legalization of the local communist party?

[Aquino] Well, first of all, our Constitution mandates and encourages a multiparty system. So, many parties can be organized so long as these parties will renounce violence, and the same holds true of the communist party. They will have to renounce violence first.

[Reporter] Advanced Happy Valentine's Day, ma'am. The 1947 bases treaty will expire in 1991 and it appears that the U.S. still has to disburse some \$1.15 billion in commitments. The presidential committee on the bases has discovered that this \$1.15 billion has not been disbursed since 1980. [passage indistinct] What will you do or what will the government do to press for the early release of this amount? Will you include it in the agenda or will you take immediate action?

[Aquino] First of all, when you refer to the presidential committee on the bases, I guess you were referring to the committee of which Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig is chairman. We really have to check on this story. Are you referring to the story of Malou Mangahas? In fact, that was brought to my attention and I have already made inquiries, first with the Department of Finance, and also with the coordinating council of the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP], Bert Villanueva who is chairman of the PAP. We will look into this matter. But normally, the fact...[changes thought] as we have said, we have improved on the absorptive capacity of the Philippines. Before, there was really a backlog because, especially, during the years before the snap elections, the Philippine Government could not or did not have a peso counterpart with which to engage in the implementation of the projects funded by the United States or other foreign governments. At any rate, I will instruct and I have already instructed the Secretary of Finance and I will also instruct Mr Bert Villanueva to read the story of Malou Mangahas and explain to me if indeed this is true, and what we are doing to speed up the disbursement of such funds.

Salonga Comments on Refusal

HK1202093590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Senate President Jovito Salonga said that President Aquino's decision not to hold a dialogue with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney when he visits the country on 18 February, is a presidential prerogative which no one has the right to question. Salonga's statement was supported by Senator Agapito Butch Aquino. According to Salonga, Aquino has the prerogative to meet anybody she wishes to talk to, and to ignore anyone she does not want to see, adding that this could just be a way through which the president signals an important message to U.S. Government officials. [passage omitted]

Here is the statement of Jovito Salonga:

[Begin recording in English] [Salonga] It is not for me or for anyone to question that prerogative.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Salonga] Maybe. It is meant to send a signal. But that is a matter of presidential prerogative. [end recording]

Editorial Views Refusal

HK1202062590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 12 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Seeing Through American Duplicity"]

[Text] In what appeared to be a mild rebuke to the crude posturing of the United States on the bases issue, President Aquino said she will not meet personally with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney during his scheduled three-day visit to the Philippines starting February 19.

Cheney is touring Asia beginning this week, ostensibly to consult with U.S. allies on his country's plans regarding the presence in the area of its troops and military facilities. His schedule in the Philippines apparently includes personal audiences with top officials, particularly Mrs. Aquino.

But the President said Cheney can very well talk to his Philippine counterpart, Sec. Fidel Ramos. We believe this is the way it should be. Mrs. Aquino from hereon need not feel obliged to personally meet with just any U.S. functionary who thinks he deserves nothing less than a personal welcome by her.

Some would say, of course, that Cheney is no ordinary Washington bureaucrat. Being the U.S. defense secretary, his voice carries undeniable clout in the disposition of matters pertaining to America's global defense posture, and that includes the issue of its military facilities in the Philippines.

But precisely because the U.S. of late has sounded and acted grossly impolitic with regards to the bases issue, if not the entire range of U.S.-Philippines relations, Mrs. Aquino's refusal to meet a point-man of President Bush

should convey the Filipino people's irritation and brewing anger towards Washington.

Feigning budgetary problems, the U.S. pruned down its military and economic support under the Shultz-Manglapus bases agreement in 1988. Earlier, after spearheading the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP), the U.S. also reduced the amount it promised to contribute to the program.

Obviously not content with renegeing on these commitments, the U.S. abstained twice in the World Bank's voting on loan assistance for the Philippines. "A very bad signal at a very bad time," was how Finance Secretary Jesus Eustanislao described the U.S. vote. To many Filipinos, it was simply a vote against a "special friendship," a pretension that America likes to dazzle the Philippines with.

Recently, the commander of the U.S. armed forces in the Pacific, Admiral Huntington Hardisty extolled the ideal locations of Clark and Subic for the American presence in the Pacific. Yet, he was quoted advocating the stopping of payment to the Philippines by the U.S. for the use of its bases here. Hardisty was not the first American, and he will not be the last, to think that the U.S. is entitled to a free ride in the Philippines.

Many perceive these events as parts of an orchestrated move by the U.S. to apply a softener to counter what it expects to be a determined try by the Philippines to exact the most out of the Americans' continued use of the bases.

The U.S. position is reduced to claiming that it does not have the money to honor its present commitments and it certainly will not offer more than what it cannot give now. At the same time, it seeks to soothe us with meaningless reassurances of "support for Philippine democracy."

Those who earlier favored the idea of extending the life of the bases beyond 1991, because they thought Americans could be persuaded to pay more, are now seeing through this American duplicity.

Even the idea of holding "exploratory talks" with the Americans is gaining less adherents. Exasperated leaders of Congress say that if the U.S. cannot be relied upon to honor their existing commitments, there is simply no sense in more talks that would lead to more empty promises. Some have even proposed that the holding of the talks be dependent on the actual delivery of the U.S. of its full commitments under the 1988 agreement.

President Aquino has already publicly announced that the Government will serve the notice of the bases termination in September this year. This is a constitutional requirement, and the President's compliance with it should raise hopes that we may well see the beginning of the end of the bases in the country.

Meantime, let us hasten all those conversion plans for the bases, without being distracted by the U.S. show of bad manners, or its parade of bureaucrats "visiting" the country.

Ramos Downplays Forthcoming Visit

HK1202020990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos downplayed the forthcoming visit of his American counterpart Richard Cheney as yet a resumption of a ministerial consultation on defense issues between the two countries.

Cheney's visit scheduled on February 18 has triggered speculations on his real purpose as it comes on the heels of the recent visit last month of U.S. presidential adviser Robert Gates and U.S. Congressman James Kolbe.

Ramos explained that the two-day visit is a continuation of the two countries defense ministerial consultation that began in 1982 in the United States. The Philippines defense chief said this meeting had long been anticipated as it is his turn to hold such a meeting. Ramos said as far as he is concerned, the agenda will revolve around defense matters related to the security of the two countries.

Manglapus Suggests Bases Talks for March, April

HK1102085290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Manila, Feb 11 (AFP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Sunday that Washington and Manila should be able to discuss the future of U.S. military bases in the country in late March or early April.

"The end of March or the beginning of April may be the earliest we could properly prepare for," Mr. Manglapus told reporters.

But he said he foresaw no immediate solution to planned U.S. aid cuts to the Philippines.

The negotiations, described by the Philippine Government as "exploratory," are to deal with whether Manila will allow continued U.S. access to Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base after the current executive agreement runs out on September 16, 1991.

The talks were to have started here in December, but they were put back by the bloody early December coup attempt which President Corazon Aquino put down with the aid of U.S. air cover.

Mr. Manglapus, who will head the Philippine panel, has said he expected the U.S. Congress to cut 96 million U.S. dollars from a 360 million dollar military and economic aid package pledged by Washington for 1990 as compensation for the bases.

He said Sunday that under the "best efforts" pledge of the U.S. Government, "theoretically they have all those two years to deliver all of those figures mentioned."

However, he said a provision in the 1988 bilateral agreement on the bases prescribed that U.S. forces in the Pacific should purchase 30 million dollars' worth of supplies from the Philippines this year.

"I don't see how we can recover that, and I think we will encounter difficulties," Mr. Manglapus said.

"They had shortfalls before—about 50 million dollars—but they made up for it by supplementary legislation. This is the very first time that I see no prospects of any immediate remedial legislation," he added.

Manglapus Urges Explicit Show of U.S. Support

HK1202090990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said today that the U.S. Government should make an explicit statement of its support for the Aquino administration. He added that declarations of support by visiting U.S. legislators are contrary to the U.S. Government's failure to honor aid commitments.

Here is an excerpt of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus' statement:

[Begin recording in English] [Manglapus] Yes, that development will not make anybody happy here. Certainly, I understand the president herself has already expressed herself as disappointed whenever such things as the comments you mentioned come up after visits of American officials who while they're here showed a lot of positive attitudes and sympathy to the Philippine Government.

[Reporter] Is that why she is not meeting with Cheney?

[Manglapus] I think...I don't know if that is the reason, but she has apparently decided not to receive Secretary Cheney. [end recording]

Former Supporters Urge Bases Talks Suspension

HK1202023390 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] A group of congressmen who earlier strongly supported the retention of the U.S. bases in the Philippines has urged President Corazon Aquino to suspend the exploratory talks on the extension of the R.P. [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement or MBA.

Negros Oriental Representative Miguel Romero, an influential member of the group, said 12 congressmen recently signed a resolution asking Mrs. Aquino to suspend the bases talks set to begin next month until the U.S. shows good faith. Among those who signed the

resolution was Representative Kate Gordon of Olongapo City, site of Subic Naval Base.

Romero said he expected more congressmen to support the resolution because there was a growing consensus in the House that the U.S. should not set the term for a new bases agreement. Romero said statements made by American officials calling for the reduction of aid to the Philippines were proof that the U.S. was pressuring the Philippine Government to agree to its own term on the treaty.

U.S. Delivery of Military Hardware Reported

HK1002090790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The United States continues to deliver military hardware to the Philippines despite growing rhetoric connected with the presence of U.S. military bases in the country. According to Colonel Edgardo Camina, head of the Armed Forces ordnances and chemical service, the United States has delivered 191 Hammer multiterrain or weather vehicles, 4,000 Garand rifles, 6,000 carbines, 180 .90 millimeter recoilless rifles, and 661 M-16 machine guns. It will also dispatch this year 525 recoilless rifles, 19 machine guns, 740 grenade launchers, 740 .81 millimeter mortars and 97 Hammer jeeps.

Camina also said that the military hardware was presented to the Armed Forces through U.S. military sales credits. The delivery is expected to help in the military's counterinsurgency campaign.

The Hammer vehicles can drive to 60 degree angles and cross water. They are also sturdily built and could be dropped from a C-130 cargo plane to ground troops and may be submerged in water.

Rebel Gun Runners Nabbed; April Coup Predicted

HK1202055290 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER IN English 12 Feb 90 p 7

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] Constabulary agents have arrested five gunrunners believed to be supplying high-powered guns and ammunitions to an armed civilian group which supported mutinous soldiers during the December putsch. A cache of firearms was also seized from the suspects.

Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlaog Jr., chief of the PC [Philippine Constabulary] Criminal Investigation Service [CIS], identified the alleged leader of the group as Cpl. Rosauro Marcelo of the police force in Plaridel, Bulacan. The names of the four other suspects were withheld pending investigation.

As this developed, Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, Constabulary chief, predicted that rebel soldiers would again attempt to topple President Aquino in the next few months, but will never be successful.

Montano said the rebel soldiers are capable of launching another coup, probably in April, because of the vast financial support coming from some businessman and politicians.

"They will never be successful. The people will not support them," Montano said.

Dumlaog said they are still verifying an intelligence report that Marcelo's group supplied civilians with high-powered firearms and ammunitions for the sixth and bloodiest coup attempt against President Aquino.

Seized by the CIS agents from Marcelo's house in Plaridel were an Armalite rifle, a Thompson submachinegun, an Uzi, a carbine, five fully customized .45 cal. automatics, two .9 mm caliber automatics, a .25 cal. handgun, a .38 cal. revolver, a .45 cal. "vintage" revolver, a bullet reloading machine, and thousands of ammunitions.

Col. Serafin Santo, CIS special operations group commander, said Marcelo's house on 1620 Buhain Subd., Barangay Parulan, was raided on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Natividad Dizon of Malolos regional trial court.

Santos said Marcelo and his companions will initially be charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions.

They will still also be interrogated in connection with their indirect participation in the December putsch which left at least 113 people killed and hundreds wounded.

Few days after the putsch, the military identified the civilians supporters of the rebel soldiers.

A copy of the secret document identifying supporters of the recent coup was obtained by the INQUIRER from AFP intelligence sources.

The document, Operational Data on the Rebel Leaders of the December 1989 Failed Coup Attempt, listed at least 150 civilians, five big companies, and scores of businessmen and politicians.

Most of the civilians were members of gun clubs and a motorcycle club, reportedly led by Jaime "Boy" Luz and discharged PC Sgt. Danilo de la Cruz.

Luz carries a P1-million reward on his head while De la Cruz carries P300,000.

Both were closely identified with cashiered Army Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, head of the putsch.

Luz was Honasan's instructor in motorcross racing, while De la Cruz was a former security aide of ex-Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Manglapus Proposes Legalizing Communist Party
*HK1202093390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Feb 90*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today proposed the legalization of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], despite developments in Eastern Europe, especially in the Soviet Union. However, Manglapus stressed that the CPP should renounce violence and its objective to overthrow the present administration. Here is part of Secretary Manglapus' statement:

[Begin recording in English] We are hoping that the insurgent leaders will realize that the cause that they are supposedly fighting for, which in the beginning, when they started to fight may have been achievable and ideal for them, is now being rejected all over the world. I hope that that will mean that they will accept the offer of the government for them to participate freely in the democratic process. [end recording]

Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna supported Manglapus' statement:

[Begin recording in English] The Philippine Constitution very clearly provides that in order for a party to be registered it must subscribe to the Constitution and must renounce violent means. Any party that fulfills that requirement is qualified to register under our Constitution to the Comelec [Commission on Election]. [end recording]

Thailand

Ryzhkov, Soviet Delegation Pay Two-Day Visit

Soviet Envoy Previews Visit

*BK1002015590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
10 Feb 90 p 3*

[Text] Cambodia and bilateral relations will be the main issues discussed when Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov arrives in Bangkok tomorrow morning for a two-day official visit.

Soviet Ambassador to Thailand Anatoly Valkov said Mr Ryzhkov would be the most senior Soviet official ever to visit Thailand and would take place during the first visit of the Soviet head of government to the Asia-Pacific region.

Apart from Bangkok, Mr Ryzhkov is scheduled to visit Singapore and Australia.

Mr Ryzhkov visited Vietnam a few years ago—his only previous trip to the region, Ambassador Valkov said.

"The Soviet Union is attaching great significance to the development of relations with this region," Mr Valkov said.

Cambodia will be the emphasis of the Prime Minister's tour, as Thailand has played a major role on the issue,

while Australia recently proposed United Nations' involvement in achieving peace in the war-wrecked country.

But any freezing of arms supplies to the warring factions would have to result from an international agreement, which should cover all assistance to all parties, the ambassador said.

The Soviet Union is the main backer of the Cambodian army, while China arms the guerrillas.

The rival factions are due to meet in Jakarta from February 26 to 28 for another round of informal talks to try to end 11 years of fighting.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, an expert on Asia-Pacific affairs, will accompany Mr Ryzhkov and hold separate talks with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, the ambassador said.

Stefan Sitaryan, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Vladislav Malkevich, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the USSR are also in the Prime Minister's 50-man delegation.

Asked whether the Soviet Premier has any plans to meet Cambodian resistance leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is in Thailand, Mr Valkov said there had been contacts between the Soviet Union and Prince Sihanouk.

Another topic expected to be discussed with Thailand is the Soviet military presence in the region.

Moscow recently announced it had pulled out most of its combat forces from Cam Ranh Bay naval base in Vietnam.

Mr Valkov said the withdrawal showed the Soviet Union was trying to reduce the level of confrontation in the region.

"The ball is now in the American corner," he said.

Mr Valkov said the Soviet presence at Cam Ranh Bay would become purely symbolic in character, but he could not say when the withdrawal would be completed.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan will hold formal talks with Mr Ryzhkov at Government House tomorrow, followed by a plenary session covering a wide range of bilateral issues.

Mr Ryzhkov will tour the Grand Palace and visit the Thai-American Textile factory later in the afternoon.

Tomorrow night, the Soviet Prime Minister will be feted at an informal dinner hosted by Gen Chatchai aboard the Oriental Queen.

Representatives of the Thai private sector have also been invited.

Mr Ryzhkov has been granted an audience with His Majesty the King on Monday afternoon and will leave Thailand that night.

Papers Comment on Visit

BK1202084390

[Editorial Report] The 11 and 12 February issues of the Thai vernacular papers SIAM RAT and NAEON comment on Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov's visit to Thailand and on the possibilities of cooperation and increased bilateral trade.

SIAM RAT's 600-word 11 February 'Page One Report' by Chaiwat Yonpiam, on pages 1 and 16, says: "Even though the Soviet prime minister will spend only two days in Thailand, observers feel that the visit is significant in that he is the most senior Soviet official to visit Thailand in 70 years after the establishment of the communist system following the Bolshevik revolution."

Continuing, the item says: "The visit of the Soviet prime minister's delegation should generate considerable economic benefits for Thailand, providing that Thailand's strategy does not continue to dwell on the cold war at a time when most countries have come to realize that world tension is a thing of the past."

"The Soviet military threat in Southeast Asia has markedly declined because of domestic economic problems. It is generally agreed that the remaining Soviet military contingent in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, is so small that it no longer poses any threat to other countries in the region." Concluding, it says: "The Soviet prime minister should take the opportunity during his visit to expand the scope of Thai prime minister's famous phrase 'turning the war zone into a trade zone' to a global scale."

The 11 February 400-word NAEON editorial, on page 5, entitled: 'A Look At Thailand's Status,' notes: "The visit of the Soviet prime minister is unprecedented in the history of Thai-Soviet relations. It is hoped that the visit will create a climate beneficial to both countries, enabling them to better understand and cooperate with each other in the future."

The 12 February 13,000-word SIAM RAT 'Report' by Manat Phuenglamchiak, on page 12, after reviewing exchanges of visits by senior Thai and Soviet officials in the past, says: "Better understanding between Thailand and the Soviet Union has led to aviation and shipping agreements, joint trading companies, and growing bilateral trade which has given Thailand a huge trade surplus."

"Thai businessmen should gain a lot if they can be the first party to effectively explore trade with a new age Soviet Union where essential consumer goods are in short supply. Soviet people want Thai products and Thai producers will enrich themselves if they can be the first to penetrate the Soviet market."

"The Soviet political system has become more democratic and the country is opening up to the free world. Thailand should exploit the historic ties between the two countries started by King Rama V."

"The Soviet side reportedly desires friendly relations with Thailand and has made concessions towards that end. It also suggests various cooperation agreements which Thailand has given little attention to so far."

"It is hoped that during the Soviet prime minister's visit agreements of mutual benefit will be finalized, such as those in the scientific, technological, and technical fields and on the exchange of land as sites for new embassies."

Chatchai Welcomes RyzhkovBK1102074190 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov and his wife, on board a special aircraft of Aeroflot airlines, arrived at the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters Airport this morning on an official visit to Thailand from 11-12 February as guests of the Thai Government.

After the aircraft arrived at the Air Force Headquarters Airport, Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chulhavan and his wife welcomed the visiting Soviet premier and his wife at the plane. The Thai prime minister then accompanied the Soviet prime minister to inspect the combined honor guards consisting of troops from the Royal Thai Army, Navy, and Air Force. The band played the Soviet national anthem while gun salutes were fired to honor the visit, the first country in the Soviet premier's tour of Southeast Asia. It is the first time in history that a Soviet prime minister has visited this country.

The band played the Thai national anthem marking the strengthening of relations between the Soviet Union and Thailand. Then Chatchai and Ryzhkov inspected the honor guards. The welcoming ceremony was held in an honorable fashion.

At 1330 today, the Soviet prime minister and his wife will leave the Oriental Hotel to visit the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. After that they will visit the Thai Modern Textile Company in Pathum Thani Province and then return to the hotel. At 1900, Chatchai and his wife will host a reception dinner in honor of the visiting Soviet couple on board the Oriental Queen.

Tomorrow at 1630, the Soviet premier and his wife, accompanied by the Thai prime minister and his wife, will have an audience with their majesties the king and queen of Thailand.

Cambodian Issue DiscussedBK1202042190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The Soviet Union has clearly indicated it wants to see a settlement of the Cambodian problem through peaceful means as it has reduced military assistance to

some countries in this region, Government spokesman Suwit Yotmani said yesterday.

The spokesman's remark came during an informal dinner hosted by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan for visiting Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov aboard the Oriental Queen on the Chao Phya River.

About 30 high-ranking Thai personalities, including Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, Communications Minister Montri Phongphanit and former foreign minister Arun Phanuphong and members of the Soviet delegation attended last night's function.

Mr Ryzhkov's visit is the first high-level visit to Thailand by a Soviet delegation, Dr Suwit said.

The Soviet Union has attached importance to Thailand, following Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's moves allowing democratic changes in Eastern Europe.

Moreover, it has reduced military aid to some countries in the Southeast Asian region, indicating the Soviets want the Cambodian problem solved peacefully, Dr Suwit said.

During the past month the Soviet Union played a very important role concerning the Cambodian problem, causing Vietnam and the Cambodian government in Phnom Penh to show more interest in negotiations.

"This is in agreement with our Prime Minister's recent comment to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, that he wanted to see the superpowers reduce aid to all Khmer factions so that peace in the region can be attained more quickly," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister's spokesman Phansak Winyaratna said Mr Ryzhkov's visit is regarded as most important because the Soviets contributed considerably to changes in Eastern Europe.

The timing of the visit is also appropriate because the United Nations Security Council is about to meet to discuss the Cambodian problem, Mr Phansak said.

The Soviet Union is interested in expanding economic relations with Thailand, which enjoyed about 11 percent economic growth last year, he said.

He described Mr Ryzhkov's visit as opening a new era in Soviet relations with Asia and the Pacific.

After arriving yesterday Mr Ryzhkov visited the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and a Thai-American textile factory in Pathum Thani before boarding the Oriental Queen last night.

Mr Ryzhkov was scheduled to meet Privy Councillor and former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon this morning at the Oriental Hotel.

Mr Ryzhkov will then hold formal talks with Gen Chatchai this morning at Government House followed by lunch hosted by the Prime Minister before visiting the Temple of Dawn.

Mr Ryzhkov will have an audience with His Majesty the King before leaving this afternoon.

Visit Marks 1988 Trip

BK1202121290 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, accompanied by his wife and a delegation, is paying an official visit to Thailand on 11-12 February. This is the first visit to Thailand by a high-ranking Soviet leader. The Soviet prime minister's delegation includes members of both the government and the private sector, including Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Stepan Sitaryan, and Chairman of the Presidium of the Chamber of Commerce and the Committee for Economic Cooperation of Asia and the Pacific Vladislav Malkevich.

The visit of Prime Minister Ryzhkov is a return visit for the trip to the Soviet Union by the then prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanon, in 1988, and to keep with President Gorbachev's policy of promoting relations with the countries in this region, as well as to strengthen ties with Thailand.

During his visit, Prime Minister Ryzhkov held official consultations with General Chatchai Chunhawan on issues including the Cambodian problem. The Soviet Union maintained that more talks are needed to achieve a solution to the Cambodian problem. Thailand, meanwhile, wants all powers to scale down support for all factions for a better chance for peace in Cambodia. In addition to holding talks on bilateral issues, Prime Minister Ryzhkov also visited the Thai-American Textile Company here. At 1630 today, Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan was scheduled to accompany the Soviet prime minister and his wife for an audience with their majesties the king and queen. At 1745 the Soviet prime minister will meet Thai businessmen. At 2200, the Soviet prime minister and his delegation will leave Thailand to continue his visit to Singapore and Australia.

Chatchai Holds Talks

BK1202060790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] At Government House at 0945 today, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan welcomed Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov who is on an official visit to Thailand from 11 to 12 February. At 1000, the prime minister held official talks with the Soviet prime minister. At 1230, the prime minister and his wife hosted a luncheon for the Soviet prime minister and his delegation at Government House.

At 1400, Suwit Yotmani, Prime Minister's Office spokesman, will brief a press conference at the Government House press center on the results of official talks between the Thai and Soviet prime ministers.

At 1630, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and his wife will accompany the Soviet prime minister and his wife to an audience with their majesties the king and queen at Chitlada Palace.

Morning Meeting Reported

BK1202144090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani has reported on the meeting between Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov which took place at Government House this morning. Suwit said the two prime ministers held private consultations for 45 minutes. They agreed that their meeting will greatly benefit bilateral relations and trade and economic cooperation. The Soviet prime minister invited the Thai prime minister to visit the Soviet Union; the Thai prime minister said he regarded the invitation as a great honor.

On trade cooperation, Thailand felt that the Soviet Union has plenty of steel rods that Thailand wants. The Soviet Union also expressed a desire to help build steel mills in Thailand. The Soviet prime minister praised several Thai products which employed good production technology but expressed doubt about why they have to be sold through third countries. On this issue, Thailand and the Soviet Union will cooperate in joint business ventures. Some 1,400 foreign firms currently engage in joint ventures in the Soviet Union; Thai firms can make similar joint business engagements, particularly in the fishery, canned fish, clothing, gem, and industrial manufacturing businesses. The Soviet side also suggested that Thailand organize trade exhibitions in the Soviet Union to promote bilateral trade.

On economic cooperation, Suwit said the Soviet Union will assist Thailand in auto and tire manufacturing, ship building, and the project to develop the southern coast and Krabi Province's deep-sea port. The Soviet Union also suggested that Thailand use the Siberian railway to transport exports to Europe, which will cut costs considerably. Thailand proposed that the Soviet Union aid the hydroelectric program in Thailand.

The Soviet prime minister urged Thailand to operate tourism business in the Soviet Union because the USSR has plenty of tourist sites and Thailand has considerable experience in the tourism and hotel businesses. He said his country was ready to supply tuna for the Thai cannery so that it will not have to buy from other sources. The Soviet Union is pleased to assist and exchange computer research activities by providing training to Thai personnel. It will provide cooperation in water pollution treatment, in which the Soviet Union has vast experience, as well as in satellite communication.

The Soviet Union invited Thailand to send personnel to accompany others on space flights.

Cambodia, Relations Discussed

BK1202122690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 12 (AFP)—Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan on Monday [12 February] accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union during talks here with his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov, the Thai Government spokesman said.

Spokesman Suwit Yotmani told reporters after the 45-minute talks that the two men had discussed Cambodia and relations between Moscow and Bangkok.

Mr. Ryzhkov conveyed a "goodwill" message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Mr. Chatchai and extended an invitation for the Thai premier to visit the Soviet Union, the spokesman said. Mr. Chatchai replied that he would visit Moscow "in the near future," Mr. Suwit said.

On Cambodia, Mr. Ryzhkov reiterated the Soviet Union's call for an end to outside military assistance to the warring Cambodian factions, the spokesman said. The Soviet Union is the main backer of the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia. A guerrilla coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge is fighting Phnom Penh government forces in Cambodia.

According to Mr. Suwit, the Soviet premier, the highest ranking Soviet official ever to visit Thailand, also praised the policy of Mr. Chatchai, who had engaged in rapprochement with Hanoi and Phnom Penh, to "turn the battlefields in Indochina into a market place for Thai goods."

Mr. Ryzhkov also "agreed in principle" to cooperate with Thailand in developing the three Indochinese countries—Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, Mr. Suwit said.

On bilateral economic relations, Mr. Chatchai told the Soviet premier that Thailand wanted to buy steel rod, iron sheet and crude oil from the Soviet Union and urged Moscow to buy Thai rice, rubber, coffee, textile and garments, the spokesman reported. They also discussed the possibility of entering a joint Thai-Soviet venture to set up canned fish factories in both countries, while Mr. Ryzhkov also requested that Thai businessmen invest in his country, Mr. Suwit said.

Mr. Ryzhkov, who later Monday was to have a meeting with leading Thai businessmen, told Mr. Chatchai that Soviet economic experts would visit Thailand soon to study trade and the market situation, he said.

Mr. Chatchai, for his part, expressed the wish that the Soviet Union construct a hydro-electric generating plant in order to help reduce Thailand's dependence on Lao-tian electricity, Mr. Suwit said. The Thai leader asked for

technical know-how from Moscow, particularly in biotechnology, technical science, computer and ways to help solve the problem of polluted water discharged by factories, Mr. Suwit said.

Mr. Ryzhkov arrived here early Sunday for a two-day official visit at the outset of a tour of Thailand, Australia and Singapore. He is to leave here for Australia late Monday.

Luncheon Speeches Exchanged

BK1202135490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan hosted a luncheon in honor of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, his wife, and the Soviet delegation at Government House today at 1245 on the occasion of the Soviet prime minister's official visit to Thailand on 11-12 February.

The prime minister delivered a speech. He said that the Soviet-Thai relations dated back for more than a century. These relations have developed considerably in recent years, with more exchanges of visits by high-level authorities, especially by members of the royal family. There was also a constant growth in the volume of trade exchanges. In addition there were cultural and sports exchanges on a regular basis. Those developments reflect the common desire of the two countries to promote and strengthen bilateral relations.

The prime minister believes that there is room for both countries to expand cooperation in various fields which will be of mutual benefit. The prime minister said that in the near future Asia and the Pacific will be a region of peace, stability and economic prosperity, and that the people in those countries will be able to coexist peacefully, and enjoy freedom and better welfare. This, he said, will make the era of the Pacific, which was originally just a hope, come true.

The Soviet prime minister also delivered a speech which can be summed up as follows: He said that Thailand and the Soviet Union have enjoyed smooth relations for a long period of time and that today marks another milestone in the development of bilateral relations in terms of economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation. He said that his current visit is the first by a Soviet prime minister to Thailand. On relations between Thailand and the Soviet Union, he said this is an important development in history. It has given new opportunities and direction in strengthening bilateral relations through an exchange of views in a straightforward manner, especially on trade and economic cooperation. The economic reforms in the Soviet Union will facilitate contacts between businessmen and the private sector in both countries in pursuit of joint enterprises for the mutual benefit. The Soviet Government supports Thai businessmen looking for joint investment with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, he said, has technicians and experts in new technologies, and this can contribute to

the development in Thailand. The agreement to set up a joint Thai-Soviet commission on scientific and technical cooperation will contribute to scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. Meanwhile, trade and economic cooperation will promote cultural, sports, and tourism exchanges.

Sitthi, Rogachev Meet

BK1202113990 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] This morning Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev called on Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila at Government House. According to Suraphong Chaiyanam, deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman, the two ministers discussed the Cambodian conflict. The Soviet deputy foreign minister informed the Thai foreign minister that his government agreed with and welcomed Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's initiative calling for participation of the four Cambodian factions at the informal meeting in Jakarta from 26 to 28 February to effectively seek a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. The Soviet Government agreed with the Thai Government on the United Nations playing an expanded role in the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. In addition, the Soviet Government agreed with the Thai Government in appealing to the rival factions to end their fighting in Cambodia.

Rogachev confirmed to the Thai foreign minister that his government agreed with the Thai Government that the participants in the informal meeting in Jakarta at the end of February should use as the basis for their discussions the Australian proposal, which calls for a direct UN role in the political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister explained the Soviet stand regarding the Khmer Rouge. That is, the Soviet Union has no policy of blocking the Khmer Rouge from sharing administrative power with the other Cambodian factions; it merely does not wish to see the Khmer Rouge return to monopolize power in Cambodia.

Finally, the Soviet deputy foreign minister emphasized to the Thai side that the Soviet Union welcomes and is ready to support any UN action and recognizes that as far as the future and sovereignty of Cambodia are concerned, only the Cambodian people have the right to determine the future of Cambodia and their own future.

Vice Foreign Minister Makes Saudi Mission

Speaks With Newsmen

BK1002141190 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1300 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan spoke to newsmen this afternoon at the Bangkok International Airport before departing for Saudi Arabia. He said he was making the trip at the instruction of the

foreign minister and the prime minister to generally strengthen good relations and particularly to achieve understanding of senior Saudi officials regarding the murder of Saudi Embassy officials in Bangkok. An advance Foreign Ministry team is already in Saudi Arabia on the same mission.

Praphat said the Thai police have accelerated their investigation of the murder and achieved considerable progress. It will not be long before they can make a specific statement on the case.

On safety of Saudi Embassy officials, Praphat said the police have stepped up security and instituted regular security watch. On this matter, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila has suggested that to protect foreign diplomats, every country should set up a special police unit for this purpose.

Praphat said the Saudi Embassy has given full cooperation to the Thai police and Foreign Ministry officials. The Foreign Ministry has assigned officials to join the police investigation team. During the trip, Praphat will meet with senior Saudi officials in various fields to help solve the problem as well as to strengthen bilateral relations.

Meets Foreign Minister

BK1202030190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[By Soemsuk Kasitthipradit in Riyadh]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan yesterday met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal for talks described as achieving the Thai objective of overcoming misunderstandings following the slaying in Bangkok of three Saudi diplomats on February 1.

The talks did not touch on the Saudi ban on issuing visas for Thai workers.

Minister Praphat met Prince Faysal yesterday after arriving here on Saturday [10 February] night.

Mr Praphat told reporters the one-hour meeting achieved the Thai objective of forging better understanding.

He said both sides need to cooperate to resolve the current problem caused by the killing of the Saudi diplomats.

Ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry Kopsak Chutikun described the results of the Praphat visit as "better than expected".

Originally, Deputy Saudi Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan was supposed to welcome the Thai delegation.

Instead Deputy Saudi Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amal Malzuli [name as published], who is responsible

for politics, as well as a number of senior Saudi Foreign Ministry officials were on hand for the delegation's arrival.

Mr Kopsak said the fact that Saudi authorities allowed their press to cover the minister's arrival indicated the importance they attach to the visit.

He also said Mr Praphat was supposed to hold talks with his counterpart Shaykh Malzuli but was also allowed to meet Prince Sa'ud.

During their meeting, Prince Faysal told the Thai delegation that the killing of the three diplomats was an "act of terrorism" and that Thailand should not allow a third party to act in any way that would hurt relations between the two countries.

Apart from the deaths of the diplomats, the incident caused misunderstanding between the two countries, Mr Kopsak quoted Prince Faysal as saying.

According to Mr Kopsak, Prince Faysal described the murders as a "massacre" which not only violated Thai sovereignty but also ignored Thai law.

The prince said he was saddened that the incident occurred in Thailand, a country which is a friend of Saudi Arabia.

Prince Faysal said he could not deny that the killings prompted strong feelings among Saudis.

He asked Thailand to understand these feelings which were prompted by the occurrence of two similar incidents in just over a year.

Prince Faysal said Thailand could overcome the feelings among Saudis by swiftly arresting the culprits and bringing them to justice.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Somphong Faichampa also quoted Prince Faysal as saying that both Saudi Arabia and Thailand needed to contain the feelings of their people in the two countries.

During the meeting, Mr Praphat emphasised Thailand's good intentions towards Saudi Arabia and expressed hope that the incident would not sour ties between the two countries.

Mr Praphat told the Saudi press shortly after arriving that his delegation would explain what measures Thai authorities have taken to ensure the safety of Saudi diplomats.

He expressed sadness that the incident occurred.

Mr Somphong added yesterday that Deputy Central Investigation Bureau chief Maj-Gen Chalo Koetthet is scheduled to meet Saudi police today.

A source said the Thai delegation is expected to invite a top Saudi minister, perhaps the foreign minister, to visit

Thailand some time this year in order to boost ties and understanding between the two countries.

Khmer Rouge Refuse To Attend Peace Talks

BK0902151890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 9 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Friday [9 February] that the Khmer Rouge had refused to take part in forthcoming peace talks on Cambodia in Jakarta, a Thai Government spokesman said Friday.

Prince Sihanouk told Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that "the Khmer Rouge were not going to attend, despite his efforts to persuade them," spokesman Suwit Yotmani said.

Mr. Suwit was talking to reporters after a meeting in the Thai capital between Mr. Chatchai and the prince, Cambodia's 68-year-old former monarch.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge form the military core of a guerrilla coalition, which also includes non-communist followers of the prince and former conservative Prime Minister Son Sann, fighting the Vietnam-installed Cambodian Government.

Prince Sihanouk, who arrived in Thailand from Beijing earlier this week, met with Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen Wednesday in the Thai beach resort of Phatthaya.

The four warring Cambodian factions have been invited to meetings in Jakarta scheduled for the end of this month. Vietnam and Laos, the non-communist countries of Southeast Asia, Australia and France are also invited.

Chatchai Confident Will Attend

BK1102022390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday voiced confidence that the Khmer Rouge, one of the three parties in the Cambodian resistance coalition, would attend peace talks scheduled late this month in Indonesia.

The statement showed the premier, who is the architect of a much-heralded policy to change Indochina from a war zone to a trade zone, is still optimistic of a peaceful solution to the long-standing Cambodian problem although Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is now in Bangkok, said on Friday that the Khmer Rouge had refused to take part in the Jakarta talks scheduled for Feb 26-28.

Sihanouk was quoted by government spokesman Suwit Yotmani as telling Chatchai during Friday's informal dinner that Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan would only participate in the talks if only they included the five

permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain.

But Chatchai told reporters yesterday afternoon that Sihanouk told him on Friday that the Khmer Rouge would attend the Jakarta meeting because it had promised to do so. He added that the Khmer Rouge had also recently informed Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas that it would join the talks.

"I truly believe that the Khmer Rouge will certainly take part in the third Jakarta meeting because it is an interest of the faction. I also believe that peace in Cambodia is in sight because all parties are tired of the war," said Chatchai.

The prime minister said he would again urge all superpowers to stop supplying arms to all factions fighting each other in Cambodia.

The former Cambodian monarch reportedly wrote to his Khmer Rouge ally after meeting with Chatchai in a last-ditch attempt to convince them to attend the Jakarta talks, but sources familiar with the negotiations said the prince's latest move was unlikely to succeed.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut also told reporters in the northern province of Chiang Rai yesterday that he was also confident that the Khmer Rouge would participate in the Jakarta talks. Chawalit was among senior Thai officials attending Friday's dinner at Chatchai's Ratchakhru residence.

Meanwhile, Sihanouk yesterday sent a letter in French to newspapers and news agencies in Bangkok to clarify reports that he and Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, another faction in the resistance coalition, would send their representatives to the Jakarta meetings.

Sihanouk said that he had only said his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, would represent him in the Jakarta talks, but never mentioned that Son Sann would not be at the meeting.

"I have not said that Son Sann will not be at the Jakarta meeting. I have not spoken of Son Sann. I have only said, yesterday (Friday) evening, to prime minister of Thailand that, firstly, my party and that of Son Sann would send our respective delegation to the Jakarta meeting, and secondly, that I will be represented at the meeting by Prince Ranariddh," the prince said in his letter.

Plane Rockets Burmese Positions as 'Warning'

BK1002020990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Mae Sot—A Thai Army reconnaissance plane yesterday fired two rockets at suspected Burmese troop positions as a warning against intense cross-border shelling by Burmese gunners.

Thai Border Patrol Police [BPP] sources said Burmese gunners fired more than 1,000 81 mm and 120 mm mortar shells from their hilltop positions from Hills 300 and 200 at the Karen National Union's [KNU] special force camp at Kawmura throughout yesterday.

About 200 shells overshot and smashed into Thai territory in Ban Wang Kaeo, setting ablaze two houses and damaging a school building and a temple.

Some of the shells exploded near a forward base of the Thai paramilitary rangers and others landed some four kilometres inland from the border, said the BPP sources.

The stray shells forced some 200 Thai villagers to evacuate from Ban Wang Kaeo and Nong Bua Daeng to Ban Huai Kalok which is about three kilometres inland.

Sources said the L-19 reconnaissance plane which was making an observation flight fired two rockets at suspected Burmese positions at about 4 p.m.

When more Burmese shells began raining on Thai soil, the BPP men fired more than 10 smoke bombs as well as flares across the border to warn the Burmese of the cross-border shelling.

Two V150 armoured cars were also despatched to the border to prevent Burmese and Karen troops from crossing into Thailand, the sources said.

A KNU source, meanwhile, claimed that eight Burmese troops were killed and three injured when they attempted to break through the defence line of the Kawmura camp yesterday.

One rebel was also wounded.

Five protest notes were handed to Burmese authorities by Thai officials in Myawadi yesterday over the shelling.

Chatchai Welcomes Soviet Party Decision on Rule

BK0902021990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
9 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday welcomed the Soviet Communist Party leadership's decision to give up their 70-year-old monopoly on power and to eventually allow multi-party democracy to take place.

"It is good," the Premier said, adding that the Soviet Union would be able to become more democratic.

Asked whether it was possible for a socialist country to change and become more democratic, Gen Chatchai said he believed it could be done.

"Many countries are already changing," he said, referring to changes in Eastern Europe.

Vietnam

Article Criticizes Bush's State of Union Address

BK1002043490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0015 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Article by Van Luyen: "Mr. Bush's New Year Picture of Peace and Democracy"]

[Text] On the evening of 31 January, U.S. President George Bush presented a picture called the new year's State of the Union Address in which he did not forget to use the colorful labels of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights which have become the tools of many U.S. presidents.

Mr. Bush roughly outlined the present and future of the United States when this century is nearing an end, making the American people sweat just thinking about it.

While he was painting this picture of the United States—a place where he said people were once homeless and were given no burial at death, and now where everyone has a home in which to live in human dignity, a place where no Americans are forsaken—he completely forgot that 3 million citizens of his country are homeless, wandering about city streets with the sky as their roof and the earth as their bed. He also overlooked the excavation of red Indians' tombs, disregarding their recent protest. Of course the President, as usual, clamorously urged the American people to act for a better America because, according to him, the United States is not merely a nation but is also a vivid idea in the minds and hearts of everyone throughout the world.

Mr. Bush further presented the present world situation and outlined a future world that, according to him, has long been in the minds of the American people. He urged the people to pray for all nations to reach the threshold of lasting peace, freedom, and democracy. He explained to the people of the world that peace must be guaranteed by U.S. forces to protect U.S. interests and ideals.

To prove himself a president of peace, next year Mr. Bush will give these forces a modest amount of money—around a trillion dollars, equal to nearly one-third of the national income. He is also going to reduce some troops, close some military bases, and scrap some old warships as museum pieces. However, Mr. President gave a priority allocation of tens of billions of dollars to the Star Wars plan and to many other high-priced mass killing weapons. To sum up, he is still seeking superiority of strategic weapons.

In his global picture, Mr. Bush showed no embarrassment in presenting the recent invasion of Panama by U.S. troops as a just operation to bring about freedom and democracy for this country. If one follows Mr. Bush's bizarre logic, any place on this planet which has not enjoyed U.S.-style freedom and democracy will immediately be given this freedom, totally disregarding all ethics and international law.

With the magical picture of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights which the U.S. President has just drawn in his new year's State of the Union Address, one can always see the stick and carrot behind the U.S. pattern of peace.

Usmanov Leads USSR Delegation During Visit

Arrives in Hanoi 9 Feb

*BK0902162090 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 9—A delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy of the Soviet Union and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, arrived here today on an official friendship visit at the invitation of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

The delegation was received at the government's guest house here by Vu Oanh, deputy to the National Assembly and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam; Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the National Assembly's External Relations Commission; and Dang Huu, president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I. Kachin was also present at the reception.

Met by Party Secretary

*LD1002043890 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1332 GMT 9 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Feb (TASS)—A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in Hanoi today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) National Assembly. It is led by G.I. Usmanov, USSR people's deputy and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The delegation is made up of USSR People's Deputies N.V. Britvin, A.M. Yemelyanov, V.A. Kiseleva, V.P. Maslin, and K.M. Moldobasanov.

The Soviet parliamentarians were met in the Vietnamese capital by Vu Oanh, deputy of the SRV national assembly and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and other officials. Later in the day the delegation was received by Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and deputy chairman of the SRV State Council. In the evening a reception was given on behalf of the Vietnamese parliament in honor of the Soviet visitors.

Received by Le Quang Doa

*BK0902162290 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 9—Le Quang Dao, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and chairman of the National Assembly, this afternoon received the visiting delegation of the

Supreme Soviet of the USSR led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy of the Soviet Union and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I. Kachin was present at the reception.

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly and people, Chairman Le Quang Dao welcomed the delegation to Vietnam at this time when the Soviet Union is carrying out "perestroyka" and Vietnam is going through the process of renovation.

After reiterating the Soviet Union's great assistances to Vietnam throughout the latter's revolutionary struggle as well as in its efforts for socioeconomic development, Le Quang Dao expressed his sincere thanks to the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet State and people for their generous and effective support. He also wished for the further consolidation and development of the relations between the legislative bodies of the two countries.

On behalf of the delegation, G.I. Usmanov expressed his joy at the great achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in national renovation. He informed the Vietnamese side of a number of important issues discussed at the most recent plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. He stressed that the plenum was unanimous in taking the Soviet Union forward, firmly opposing all expressions of stagnation and conservatism and orientating all activities of the CPSU in service of interests of the country and the people.

He also affirmed that the Supreme Soviet will step up its activities to tighten the relations between the Vietnamese National Assembly and the Supreme Soviet, in the interests of the friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries.

Honored by Le Quang Doa

*BK0902162890 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT
9 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 9—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao gave a party at the presidential palace here this evening in honour of the visiting delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy of the Soviet Union and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Also present at the party were Vu Oanh, deputy to the National Assembly and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Hoang Binh Son, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of its External Relations Commission; and D.I. Kachin, Soviet ambassador to Vietnam.

Chairman Le Quang Dao and the Soviet head delegate proposed a toast to the further development of the friendship and all-sided cooperation between the two countries, in the interests of each country and of peace and stability in this region and the rest of the world.

Attends Talks 10 Feb

*BK1002152990 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT
10 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 10—Talks were held here today between a delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Vu Oanh, National Assembly deputy and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and the visiting delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy of the Soviet Union and secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee.

The two sides informed each other of the socio-economic situation and important developments in the renovation process in their respective countries, and dealt with various international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The two sides exchanged views on practical measures to promote the friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Vietnamese National Assembly and the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Vietnamese side expressed its sincere thanks to the Soviet people for their great and effective assistance to the Vietnamese people's just revolutionary cause in the past and at present. The Soviet side expressed its joy at the Vietnamese people's important achievements in renovation and affirmed that the Soviet Union would do everything in its power to make its all-round cooperation with Vietnam more and more effective, in the interests of the two peoples.

The same day, the Soviet delegation paid floral tributes at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the Lenin Monument here.

Departs for Ho Chi Minh City

*BK1102153590 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT
11 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 11—The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy of the Soviet Union and secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, left here today for a tour of Ho Chi Minh City and some other southern provinces.

It was accompanied by Vu Oanh, deputy to the National Assembly and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and Soviet Ambassador D.I. Kachin.

While in Hanoi the Soviet guests called at several production establishments.

Nguyen Co Thach Urges New Regional 'Framework'

*BK1202011590 Bangkok THE NATION in English
12 Feb 90 pp 1, 2*

[By Kawi Chongkithawon in Hanoi]

[Text] Southeast Asian countries must work harder to achieve a new framework of regional cooperation which will guarantee neutrality and stability in this volatile area after a settlement of the Cambodian conflict, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach told THE NATION over the weekend.

Thach said such regional cooperation, under the concept of Zopfan (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality) is crucial as a bulwark against any major powers' intervention in regional affairs.

It will also provide an environment that will guarantee the neutrality and independence of Cambodia in the future, he added.

"If we don't act together the major powers will impose their solution on us," Thach said in an exclusive interview, adding: "The Cambodian problem is a good example."

Thach's comment comes as ASEAN senior officials prepare for a meeting in Malaysia. One of the topics of discussion will be the peace talks on Cambodia scheduled to be held February 26 in Jakarta.

To ensure stability in Southeast Asia, Thach said nations of the region must tackle two related issues, which he described as "double neutrality"—neutrality of Cambodia and Southeast Asia.

Cambodia's neutrality must be respected by all countries in the region, Thach said, while the neutrality concept within the framework of Zopfan for the region should be pursued collectively, said Thach, who is the main architect of Vietnam's foreign policy.

"It seems Zopfan is a fatherless child of ASEAN, and now it seems Indonesia is the godfather of Zopfan," [as published] he said, referring to the long-standing concept that ASEAN has never been able to implement.

He said these issues should take precedence in the upcoming peace talks on Cambodia. After much delay, the informal peace talks on Cambodia will be held in Indonesia later this month. France, ASEAN, Indochina and the warring Cambodian factions will attend the meeting, with Australia as an observer.

For a decade, he claimed, ASEAN has sought to take advantage of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia on the Cambodian conflict without looking at long-term objectives that all countries in the region share.

Thach said concerned parties have dwelt too much on "temporary issues" in Cambodia, especially on the interim administration and the question of United Nations involvement in the transition period without looking at the long-term aspects.

"I have said before that the Cambodian problem can be solved before or after an improvement in cooperation among Southeast Asian nations," Thach said.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and since then ASEAN has adopted the position that the Cambodian conflict be settled before there can be any real cooperation between ASEAN and Indochina.

He pointed out that Southeast Asian nations, ASEAN in particular, failed to realize that by adopting this attitude, the major powers have used the Cambodian problem to their advantage with little concern for the region's interest.

China, for instance, gave concessions on Cambodia only under pressure from other major powers of the US and the Soviet Union, he said.

At the Paris meeting of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in mid-January China, which is a major supporter of the anti-Pnom Penh resistance, became more flexible on the question of an interim government and the enhanced UN roles.

"That was a small price to pay for China to win back the support of western powers" after the international outcry and suspension of relations following the Tiananmen massacre last June, he said.

Thach believed that now there is room for Southeast Asian nations to get involved in shaping a new regional order.

If Southeast Asian nations are not vigilant, the major powers will continue to impose their influence on the region.

"If they make mistakes, it would be detrimental to our regional security," he said.

Thach warned that any policy forced on the region by the major powers was vulnerable to changes due to the shifting nature of relations between the major powers themselves.

"It would be better for us to decide on our own destiny. Only Southeast Asian nations care enough about Southeast Asia," Thach said.

Vietnam, as part of Southeast Asia, wants to see the countries in the area exercise their right to limit any superpower intervention.

Vietnam has always been seen by ASEAN as a proxy of the Soviet Union to create instability in the region. ASEAN and western nations charged that its invasion and occupation of Cambodia was made possible with Soviet military support.

Nguyen Van Linh Receives Australian Legislator
*BK1102154190 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT
11 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 11—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received in Ho Chi Minh City today Tom

Uren, Labour Party member of the Australian Parliament and president of the Australia-Vietnam Society, who is now on a visit to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese party leader highly appreciated his guest's untiring efforts in developing the friendly ties between the Vietnamese and Australian peoples.

Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, on behalf of the Vietnamese people and communists, expressed thanks to Mr. Tom Uren and asked him to convey his fine sentiments to the Australian leaders.

For his part, Mr. Tom Uren expressed his joy at having the honour to be cordially received by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh who had reserved warm feelings for him personally as well as for the Australian people. He said that he had chances to see Vietnam's progress in its process of renovation and read Nguyen Van Linh's speech at the meeting to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, which deeply impressed him with the self-criticism of the Vietnamese communists and their determination to fight for Vietnam's renovation. The struggle of the Vietnamese people at present as well as in the past has encouraged the world people to struggle for freedom and social progress.

Mr. Tom Uren also handed over a letter of the chairmen of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Australian Federal Parliament inviting Chairman Le Quang Dao and a delegation of the Vietnam National Assembly to pay a visit to Australia. Nguyen Van Linh welcomed the goodwill of the Australian Parliament and expressed his hope for the further development of the cooperative relations between the two countries.

Army Commissars Must Defend Regime, Party

*BK1202093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT
12 Feb 90*

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 12 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Army must "concentrate its forces" on defending the country's socialist regime, Army political commissars said during a recent national conference, the official daily NHAN DAN reported Monday [12 February].

Participants at the conference said the Vietnamese Communist Party [VCP] Central Committee and the Army's General Political Department must strengthen their control of the armed forces to "defend resolutely the party, Marxism-Leninism, the country and the socialist regime," the party daily said.

The commissars also stressed the importance of ideological work to be done by the VCP within the army "in the current situation," according to the paper. It recalled a resolution by the Central Committee of the armed forces branch of the party on defense and "the work of the party and the political work of the general political department of the Army" for 1990.

Political leaders here have repeatedly rejected for Vietnam the liberalisation policies now taking effect in many socialist countries, notably those in Eastern Europe.

Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh recently reaffirmed that introducing a multiparty system in Vietnam would accomplish nothing for the country.

Mr. Linh added that the Communist Party would have to be revamped "actively" but in such a way as to "avoid creating political instability" in the country, and to establish "a clear distinction" between state and party functions.

The Vietnamese Army, which not long ago ranked third in the world in manpower, now comprises just under one million soldiers since the massive demobilisations of recent years.

Ministry Reviews Export of Construction Labor

*BK1102144190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 11 Feb 90*

[Text] In face of current changes in some East European countries, the SRV Ministry of Building held a conference recently to review its export of construction labor during the past two years, 1988-1989. Attending the conference were a large number of leading cadres of construction units working in countries of East Europe and the Middle East.

The Ministry of Building's report on this issue said: During the past two years, the export of construction labor attained obvious results, earning almost 41 billion dong for the state and providing jobs and improving living conditions for tens of thousands of cadres and workers, thereby increasing the nation's incomes. A number of Vietnamese corporations and enterprises have become firmly established in foreign countries, thus strengthening their position and prestige while helping a number of Vietnamese cadres to gain experiences in the field of management.

The conference focused its discussion on weaknesses in the export of construction labor during the past two years. Comrade Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of building, clearly pointed to the setback in renovation of this task. He said: We still cling to the old mechanism to carry out our work voluntarily to satisfy our ego, while ignoring reality. The role of mass societies, especially activities of party organizations in this regard, were still weak in many localities.

Delegates to the conference also discussed the complete shifting of units to business accounting and the strengthening of relations with foreign countries, especially with the Soviet Union and the friendly nations of Laos and Cambodia—the two countries with which Vietnam made fewer contacts on exporting Vietnamese construction labor.

In 1990, the Ministry of Building's construction labor force in foreign countries is expected to earn more than 65 billion dong, of which 60 billion will go to the state budget.

Australia

Military To Discuss Increased Defense Ties

BK0802134690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT
8 Feb 90

[Text] Canberra, Feb 8 (AFP)—Senior Australian military officers will visit Indonesia next month to discuss closer defence ties and possibly joint security for the Timor Sea, military chief General Peter Gration said Thursday. General Gration, who is scheduled to visit Jakarta in the third week of March for talks with his Indonesia counterpart General Try Sutrisno, said a team of senior officers would go a week before him.

"They will be exchanging strategic views with the Indonesians, and they will be examining practical ways in which we can build on the improved relationship which we've established in the last 12 to 18 months," he told journalists. "We'll be looking at the possibility of military exercising—low level, low scale, starting modestly," Gen. Gration said.

"We'll be looking at the possibility of cooperation in the Timor Sea, (with security for) the joint zone." Gen. Gration said any joint exercises in the immediate future would involve only ships and aircraft, although land exercises could be held later on.

Australia and Indonesia had conflicting territorial claims to the Timor Sea but resolved them last year by agreeing to three separate zones, one of which would be jointly administered.

The Indonesians effectively suspended defence links with Australia in 1986 over a report in a Sydney newspaper alleging corruption involving members of President Suharto's family. But relations have warmed considerably since and both countries agreed to boost defence ties during a visit by Gen. Try to Australian defence bases in July.

In Jakarta, meanwhile, senior Foreign Ministry officials from Australia and Indonesia concluded two days of formal talks Thursday, the first meeting of its kind since 1978. Richard Woolcott, secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, director general of political affairs, told a press conference the talks had been friendly and cordial, covering bilateral trade, investment, cultural exchanges, the Timor Gap treaty and regional cooperation.

Such regular senior level official talks ground to a halt in 1978 amid difficult negotiations on settling the disputed Timor Gap boundary and increasing tension between the two countries.

Palau

Voters Reject Free Association With U.S.

BK0702055390 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The people in the Pacific island of Palau appeared to have issued their strongest rejection yet for closer links with the United States. Radio Australia's South Pacific correspondent, Jemimah Gareth, reports from the capital, Koror, that there was only a small turnout for the vote on a proposed compact of free association between Palau and the United States.

The compact offers Palau self-government and \$500 million in American aid in return for the repeal of anti-nuclear provisions in Palau's Constitution and access to land for the U.S. military.

Our correspondent says a poll of voters showed that the overall vote would fall 15 percent short of the required 75 percent majority making it the biggest defeat yet for the compact. Yesterday's referendum was the seventh time that it has been put to the people.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Workers Flee Massacre Threat

BK0802123690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT
8 Feb 90

[By Wally Hiabohn]

[Text] Port Moresby, Feb 8 (AFP)—Hundreds of plantation workers were fleeing Papua New Guinea's troubled island of Bougainville by boat Thursday [8 February] following threats of a massacre by militant separatists, officials here said. They said some 400 expatriates and other residents took chartered flights off the island amid heightened fears for their safety after 14 months of bloody conflict.

Some 2,500 terrified labourers scrambled to leave after armed militants in a convoy of trucks descended on a plantation northeast of the provincial capital Arawa and burned down buildings Wednesday, officials said. The militants gave the mostly immigrant workers until Friday to clear out or be killed, said Paul Tohian, controller of the state of emergency that has been in effect on Bougainville since June.

Mr. Tohian said security troops had chased the fleeing rebels by helicopter and killed as many as 10 of them, but this could not be confirmed.

Leith Anderson, national disaster and emergency director, said the government had chartered three large boats and a barge to evacuate the workers, huddled in the island's north, to Rabaul in east New Britain Province.

A team of government, Red Cross and Salvation Army officials will fly Friday to Rabaul, where the refugees will

be cared for and eventually sent on to their home provinces. "We are not going to fill them with fillet steak," Mr. Anderson said. "We simply want to make sure they are not put on a beach and forgotten."

Officials said 300 workers left by boat immediately after the attack Wednesday and 450 others, plus some expatriate managers, fled by road to the commercial centre of Kieta. Almost 700 were gathered at Soraken in the island's northwest, awaiting evacuation at first light Friday.

Air Niugini flights from Bougainville resumed to evacuate expatriates and Papua New Guineans after being suspended by the military Tuesday on the grounds that security at the airport was inadequate.

Wilma Clarke, the wife of an employee at the Bougainville copper mine which has been closed down by the militants since last May, said her stay on Bougainville had been terrifying. "There is mortar and gunfire all the time, just like in war movies," Mrs. Clarke, the mother of three, said as she got off her plane in Port Moresby.

"This morning we woke up at 4 a.m. and went to the airport without breakfast. We had to get there early to join the queue because there were hundreds of others waiting to get on."

Bougainville officials have also been the victims of violence on the island, where more than 70 people have died in the landowners' drive for compensation from the mine and secession from Papua New Guinea. Administrative Secretary Peter Tsiamalili, who heads the public service on Bougainville and is assistant controller of the state of emergency there, was beaten by security forces at a roadblock Wednesday night.

An official of the security forces command centre said that he and Mr. Tsiamalili were stopped by troops while driving from the provincial capital Arawa to the commercial centre of Kieta. The two men were ordered out of the car while soldiers searched it and Mr. Tsiamalili was taken away for questioning.

"I do not know what happened at that time, but Mr. Tsiamalili later sported bruises on his face and complained that he had been bashed by soldiers," said the official, who requested anonymity. He said he did not know the motive for the beating. Although Bougainville is under curfew, the administrative secretary has an unrestricted curfew pass.

The attack was not the first on a Bougainville official. Last year, Provincial Premier Joseph Kabui was beaten at a church service and made to lick dried blood off a vehicle which had carried wounded policemen to hospital. Primary Industry Minister Michael Laimo was also attacked at the same service.

The human rights watchdog Amnesty International has been pushing for an investigation of alleged abuses by security forces on Bougainville. The parliamentary committee of the state of emergency, which had refused for

four months to travel to Bougainville, went there Thursday to investigate the claims.

Opposition Says Helicopters Serve as Gunships

*BK1002072390 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 90*

[Text] Papua New Guinea's opposition says four helicopters used by government forces on Bougainville should be sent back to Australia unless there is a satisfactory explanation for the way they had been used.

Radio Australia's Rob Raskie reports from Port Moresby that the opposition believed the Iroquois helicopters are being used as gunships despite assurances to the contrary. It says M-60 heavy machine guns are being fitted and they had been used to kill militants on Bougainville.

The claim follows this week's battle involving two helicopters in which up to 20 rebels were killed at a plantation north of the Bougainville capitol, Arawa.

The Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Evans and Papua New Guinea military officials say the use of the helicopters was within conditions set down when they were delivered. Australia provided them last July, mainly for troop movement and surveillance.

However Senator Evans says the conditions had always taken into account the realities of military operations.

Minister Denies Charge

*BK1202073390 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 12 Feb 90*

[Text] The Papua New Guinea Government says it has not broken any agreement on the use of Australian-supplied helicopters against separatist rebels on the troubled island of Bougainville. The defense minister, Mr Benais Sabumei, said in Port Moresby that the Australian Government had been fully briefed on the engagement on Bougainville last week between militants and security forces flying the helicopters.

Mr Sabumei said both governments were satisfied that no breaches of existing agreements had occurred. He said media suggestions that the engagement had prompted a review of the future operation of the helicopters was incorrect.

Australia gave four Iroquois helicopters to the Papua New Guinea Defense Force last year but set conditions that they should not be used as aerial firing platforms or gunships. Mr Sabumei accused the media of creating hysteria while reporting the helicopters had been used as gunships against the Bougainville rebels.

In last week's engagement, troop-carrying helicopters surprised a group of militants fleeing from a raid at (?Quino) plantation on Bougainville's northeast coast. Government troops opened fire on the rebels from the air killing and wounding an undetermined number.